

USA 2016

The 2016 USAbyrail.co.uk trip will visit Chicago, IL, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, Portland, OR, Tacoma, WA and Oakland, CA, utilising Amtrak's Empire Builder from Chicago Union Station to Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, and onward to Portland, OR, Amtrak Cascades service from Portland, OR, to Tacoma, WA and Amtrak's Coast Starlight from Tacoma, WA, to Oakland, CA. Full details are below:

Wednesday 27th April 2016

Depart UK airports and fly to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD). On arrival we transfer to our overnight hotel in Chicago, IL, using the CTA Blue Line to Jefferson Park and Metra Union Pacific Northwest Line service from Jefferson Park to Chicago Ogilvie Transportation Center. The rest of the day is free to explore Chicago or to travel on the extensive commuter rail network which radiates from Chicago. An option to stay in a hotel in Aurora, IL, at the end of Metra's BNSF Line will be included.

Thursday 28th April 2016

The morning is free to explore Chicago, IL, before departing from Chicago Union Station at 14.15 on Amtrak's Empire Builder, for the run to St. Paul Union Station in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, where an arrival at 21.53 is scheduled. On arrival we transfer to our hotel for the night.

Friday 29th April 2016

The morning is free to explore the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. Metro Transit provides an extensive light rail and bus service around the Cities and there is plenty of rail activity in and around the city with Canadian Pacific, Union Pacific, BNSF Railway and the Minnesota Commercial Railroad all having a presence in the area. Metro Transit also operates Minneapolis North Star Commuter Rail service from Target Field station to Big Lake with onward road connections to St. Cloud, MN. For those who wish to travel to St. Cloud, MN, using Minneapolis North Star, onward reservations will be made from St. Cloud, MN, to Portland, OR, on Amtrak's Empire Builder otherwise participants can join the Empire Builder at St. Paul Union Station for the through journey to Portland, OR. Overnight on train.

Saturday 30th April 2016

Today is spent travelling across North Dakota and Montana on the Empire Builder. Overnight on train.

Sunday 1st May 2016

Scheduled arrival time in Portland, OR, is 10.10am. The rest of the day can be spent exploring Portland, OR, or riding Amtrak Cascades service. Overnight in a Portland, OR, hotel.

Monday 2nd May 2016

Today our party heads North on Amtrak Cascades with two possible departure times on services to Seattle, WA, at 8.20am and 12.15pm from Portland, OR. Either departure gives plenty of time to explore Seattle, WA, with an overnight stay in either Seattle, WA, or Tacoma, WA, available. Sound Transit offers commuter service from Seattle King Street station, to either Everett in the north or Lakewood in the south. Overnight in a hotel.

Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Options are available to join Amtrak's Coast Starlight at either Seattle, WA, or Tacoma, WA, for the overnight journey to Oakland, CA. Overnight on the train.

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Participants can leave the Coast Starlight at either Sacramento, CA, at 6.15am or Oakland, CA, at 8.35am. Sacramento is the Capital of the State of California and home to the California State Railroad Museum. Amtrak provides service from Sacramento to Bakersfield, CA, along the Central Valley, with San Joaquin service trains, and also to Oakland, CA, and San Jose, CA, with Capitol Corridor trains. Connections can be made to San Francisco via Emeryville, CA, using a shuttle bus service or via BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) from stations in Oakland, CA. Caltrain, the Peninsula Corridor commuter service, operates between San Jose and San Francisco King Street station. Our hotel for tonight will be in Oakland.

Thursday 5th May 2016

Depending on return flight times and connections, today is a free day in the Bay Area, before flying from San Francisco International Airport to UK Airports on an overnight flight.

Friday 6th May 2015

Arrival back in the UK, after an overnight flight, brings the 2016 USAbyrail.co.uk trip to a close.