

ITINERARY

Sunday, October 2, 2022: ARRIVAL DAY: After arriving at the Colorado Springs International Airport, find a couple of Avianonites that also just arrived and catch a taxi, Uber or Lyft, etc. for the 15 +/- minute ride over to the Cheyenne Mountain Resort located at 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road, Colorado Springs (www.cheyennemountain.com). Upon arrival leave your bags in the vehicle, check in at the front desk, get your room assignment, then drive around to the parking spot closest to your lodge and room assignment. Unload there.

Once you've checked into your suite and freshened up, head over to the Hospitality Suite to enjoy a refreshing beverage and snacks with the other members as you stare out over the beautiful vista of Cheyenne Mountain. At 6:15 pm head down to the Remington I&II rooms for a delicious welcome dinner buffet. At the dining room there will be a pay-as-you go bar will be available for your choice of beverages.

Monday, October 3, Royal Gorge & Bridge: (rgbsales@royalgorgebridge.com) Breakfast will be on your own. We must meet in the lobby at 8:45 am to board the bus for a ride through the beautiful countryside of southern Colorado on the way to Canyon City's Royal Gorge and Bridge.

There at the beautiful new Visitors Center you will enjoy breathtaking views 1,000 feet down toward the center of the earth and the stunning rock formations created over millions of years. After a thrilling Gondola ride across the Gorge, you will enjoy an informative video presentation followed by a delightful lunch under a pavilion on the south side. Lunch will be followed by a leisure walk across the 100-year-old super strong suspension bridge back to the bus on north side.

Around 1:30 pm we'll hop back on the bus for a short ride back to the Resort for our **Annual Business meeting**. At 5:00 pm +/- we'll get back on the bus for a short ride to the historic **Briarhurst Manor Estate** (www.briarhurst.com) restaurant for an unforgettable dinner in their ballroom.

Tuesday, October 4, 2022: USAF ACADEMY: After breakfast we will board the bus for a short ride north to the Northgate Blvd entrance of the academy and head for the Visitors Center where we will meet Harry Lundy, a representative of their Public Affairs office who will give us a short walking tour talking about the history of the academy. We will enjoy a 20-minute video in the Visitors Center and hopefully get to visit the Planetarium. At noon we will re-board the bus for a short drive over to the **Falcon Club** for a delicious lunch and a visit to the Southeast Asia Memorial Pavilion.

As we exit the academy grounds we will drive past the static aircraft displays on our way out the Southgate on our way to the **GARDEN OF THE GODS Visitors Center and Nature Center** (<http://www.adventuresouthwest.com>) where we will be met by a guide who will introduce us to the awesome nature exhibits and gift shop before entering a theater to see a video that will travel through one billion years in time in less than 15 minutes!

Following the theater presentation, we will board the bus to tour the Garden with a trained Colorado naturalist who will provide a complete narrated tour of the Garden of the Gods incredible rock formations.

To round out this busy day we will catch our breath and relax for an enjoyable authentic German cuisine dinner at the **Edelweiss Restaurant**, (www.edelweiss.com), a family-owned venue that has been a local favorite since it opened in 1969.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022: PIKES PEAK: Back on the bus by the usual 9:00 am departure we will take a short ride over to Manitou Springs where we board the recently renovated **Cog Railway** for a safe, comfortable seat on the world's highest cog train! This unique Colorado adventure transports you to the 14,115-foot-high summit of Pikes Peak, on a scenic journey you'll always remember. Along the way, you'll travel through four life zones, from lush high plains to fragile alpine tundra. You'll pass beautiful mountain streams and steep boulder canyons, up to timberline and beyond. You'll see aspen groves and dense pine forests that are home to elk, deer and bear.

From the summit of Pikes Peak you can see four states, the peaks of the Continental Divide, and the historic gold camps of Cripple Creek and Victor. Most of all, savor the incredible view that inspired Katharine Lee Bates to write the lyrics to "America the Beautiful" after a trip to the summit in 1893.

After a return down to earth we'll board our bus for a short ride to **downtown Colorado Springs** where you will find a choice of restaurants for lunch on your own and window shopping.

The bus will return us to the resort to relax before our Gala Farewell Dinner in one of the Resort's beautiful dining rooms. There we'll be served an elegant dinner while listening to relaxing music by a local professional DJ, followed by those with enough energy left to dance away their cares in our crazy wonderful world.

Thursday, October 6, 2022: FAREWELL UNTIL SARDINIA IN 2023: Alas, all good times must come to an end as you clear your hotel tab and head home or for more adventures in this wonderful American state of Colorado. Check out time at the resort is 12:00 noon.