

Travel

Visits Agawa Canyon

Train travels to wilderness

The clackety clack of rail car wheels as they pass over each rail joint and the lonesome wail of a locomotive whistle are slowly slipping out of the travel world of today.

Meanwhile a nostalgia toward the past, of things that were and now are not, is daily gaining momentum like that of a transcontinental passenger train brushing aside the night in an effort to reach its destination on schedule.

The Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario depot of the Algoma Central Railway is the gateway to yesterday. From June 1 to Oct. 10, when the railway operates a daily tour train service between its southern terminal in Sault Ste. Marie, northward 100 miles to scenic Agawa Canyon, thousands flock to pay homage to the past.

Their supplication is not only to the train but to the environment through which it passes, for an Algoma Central tour ticket is also a front row seat to a panorama of wilderness alive, in full color and uninterrupted by commercial breaks.

ALGOMA CENTRAL'S Wilderness Tour to Agawa Canyon provides all of this and takes but a day of the traveler's time.

The train ride, in total 228 miles, is a first for many of those who take the trip during the summer vacation period. After Labor Day a different age group boards the train. Thus for five months each year Algoma Central's tour train is a paradox, the completion of a full circle or the backward motion of a pendulum.

Is it the train or is it the environment which brings these thousands to ride, to look and many to return to ride and look again?

The train is equipped with reasonably modern, air-conditioned picture window coaches and has one or two dining cars, dependent on the number of patrons on any particular day. The ride is comfortable.

The passengers are relaxed, freed from the responsibilities of highway travel. There is not even an opportunity for concern from back seat drivers as very little other rail traffic is scheduled to conflict with the tour train's operation.

THE TRIP ITSELF is of nine hours duration for the train sets a leisurely pace on its northward journey 114 miles to Agawa Canyon.

At the canyon there is a two hour stop-over before the three and one half hour return trip to Sault Ste. Marie.

The train takes leave of the city by a circuitous route. The depot is centrally located and the track encircles one half of the city traveling west, then north and again east, before making its final directional change and heading into the hinterlands of Lake Superior.

Once into what is called Algoma Central Country, the train meanders in a general northerly direction around lakes and beside streams, crossing rivers and valleys and twisting between the rugged rock faced hills of Ontario's Laurentians.

The scenery enroute is superb. The lakes blue with dancing waters. The rivers swift or lazy as the terrain dictates. The hills ever changing in color.

Grant's Farm features home

The 1977 tour schedule for Grant's Farm, one of America's showplaces, runs through mid-October. Among the many attractions is Grant's Cabin, home of Ulysses S. Grant, which is now preserved as a historic shrine. The farm is in St. Louis.

AT AGAWA CANYON, the railway has created a natural park setting where the canyon floor is most verdant. Here you may picnic, fish or explore the rugged rock faces. There is a tremendous lookout to climb and nature is everywhere.

The park is situated on a large bend of the Agawa River. The rail line and the Agawa River are the only forces to penetrate the canyon since time began and they meet in head on conflict each spring when the warm sun melts the snows on the awesome canyon cliffs.

At the canyon, there is an abundance of fresh pure water which manifests itself in several mighty waterfalls and many delightful trickles.

This is nature unspoiled, unpolluted, accessible, yet inaccessible. The train, the canyon, the people—they come to ride and to look and they hope that when they return to look again all will be the same.

Each season brings something different to this land. It is indeed a land for all seasons. For this reason the railway people recently started a winter operation.

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Springtime in Canada

A springtime drive along Ontario's Niagara Parkway (above) is like entering a beautiful land. That's when the region's vast acres of fruit-growing land blaze with colored blossoms. (Below) Every spring the picture-book city of Ottawa, Canada's capital, is dressed in flowers. Millions of flowers show their multi-colored petals in public gardens everywhere. The annual spectacle reaches its peak the last two weeks in May when some 200 varieties of tulip blossoms are in bloom for the city's festival of spring.



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3 tours created to explore America

For the third year, the great scenic and historic features of the United States and Western Canada will be highlighted in a series of three travel programs created by Explore America Tours for United Airlines.

The three programs are fully escorted and have been designed to include sightseeing and excursions in historical sequence, particularly for the two East Coast tours which are highlighted in United Airlines brochure "The Historic East."

"Spirit of Your Land," a nine-day, eight-night program, features four days in New York and four days in Washington including visits to historical Philadelphia and Gettysburg, as well as a full day excursion up the Hudson River Valley to West Point, the Roosevelt Home and lunch at Bear Mountain. Departures begin June 4.

"Cradles of History," a 16-day program, begins in Boston for three days, featuring historic Boston, Concord and Lexington, Quincy, Plymouth Rock and Plymouth Plantation, then moves down through the New England Coast to Newport, Rhode Island and Mystic, Conn., before arriving in New York for four days.

THE TOUR then moves through

Dutch Pennsylvania for an overnight at Gettysburg, before proceeding to Washington, D.C. After the four-day stay, the group moves south, visiting Luray Caverns, then proceeding along the Skyline Drive, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley.

Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello is visited prior to an overnight at Richmond, Va. Two full days are spent at Jamestown and Williamsburg, before returning to Washington over historic Route No. 1 for the United flight home. Departures begin June 4. Deluxe and superior first class hotels are used throughout.

"The Great Northwest" spends eight days and nine nights visiting some of the most beautiful country in the Western Hemisphere. Three days are spent in Seattle, including a full day excursion and lunch at Mt. Rainier, two days in Victoria and three days in Vancouver, British Columbia, including a full day excursion and lunch to Fraser Valley and Helgate, the gateway to the Canadian Rockies. Departures begin June 4.

All three tours are professionally escorted. Brochures and booking information is available at local travel agents, United Airlines or Explore America Tours. 655 Redwood Highway, Suite 270, Mill Valley, Calif., telephone 415-383-8000.