



An exclusive bespoke special interest tour

Street Cars of the Midwest USA

14th June—6th July 2023



OVERVIEW

A bespoke special interest tour discovering Streetcars in the USA. With a group of likeminded individuals and an expert tour leader who is a former Director of Transport on the Isle of Man

This is the 72nd tour run for tramway, streetcar and transport enthusiasts

This will be the sixth and perhaps the penultimate trip to the USA in the current series and will leave only the north-east to complete at some point in the future. Next year as the world opens again, we will feature an alternative to the USA and China looks like it could be possible.

As we move east there are more museums to cover of which some are very small with limited operation. We have covered as many as possible which we feel are worthwhile and this dictates where the weekends are spent. The Chicago area has many museums including East Troy, Fox Valley, Union along with the small systems of Milwaukee and Kenosha which are well worth a visit, and they are included which is why the option of a short trip returns from there. On this trip we will also pass several smaller museums and plinthed cars of interest. The details of these will be in the final circular.

In three weeks, we will cover the remainder of California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and western Pennsylvania.

We are offering a full 23-day trip but this can be reduced to 16 days by leaving from Chicago. We have carefully chosen the hotels many of which are downtown locations, with access to public transport, in most cases the tram, with a minimum of 3* and many are again Holiday Inn Express hotels. Our aim is to include a buffet (in the post covid style) breakfast.

This tour is a guaranteed departure

ITINERARY

LOS ANGELES

Day 1 - 14th June

Meet your fellow guests and tour leader at the Holiday Inn Express in Pasadena. Stay 3 nights and explore the metrolines of Los Angeles at leisure with fellow tour guests

Day 2 & Day 3 - 15th June

Free days in Los Angeles.

<https://www.metro.net>

<https://metrolinktrains.com/>



ITINERARY

SAN DIEGO & OKLAHOMA

Day 4 - 17th June

First we will pass the Red Car Museum at Seal Beach with its preserved PE car 1734. Next the OC Streetcar project in Santa Ana which was scheduled to open in 2020 but is currently slated for 2024. Then visit to the Southern California Railway Museum, formerly the Orange Empire Museum at Perris (70 miles).

<https://socalrailway.org>

Later we continue to San Diego (80 miles) where we will stay at the Holiday Inn Express at the airport, Old Town.



Day 5 - 18th June

A free day in San Diego. The first US second generation system now extending to over 60 miles. The Silver line is operated by PCC cars at weekends. <https://www.sdmts.com>

Day 6 - 19th June

Teatime flight via Phoenix to Oklahoma City where we stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Bricktown.

Day 7 - 20th June

Free day in Oklahoma to ride the 5-mile streetcar line.

<https://okcstreetcar.com>

ITINERARY

EL RENO & KANSAS CITY

Day 8 - 21st June

First to El Reno (30 miles) to ride the city loop on a 1924 Brill car. Then via Webb City, (257 miles) in Missouri where the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway has a remaining operational car. On to Kansas City, Missouri (150 miles) to stay at the Holiday Inn Downtown.



Day 9 - 22nd June

Free morning in Kansas City to ride the new streetcar line. <https://kcstreetcar.org/> Late afternoon/early evening flight to Chicago where we will stay at the Graduate Hotel Evanston, which is in northern Chicago and will be the base for 6 nights.

ITINERARY

CHICAGO

Day 10 - 23rd June

Free day in Chicago. The famous L and many commuter lines to explore in the windy city.

<https://www.transitchicago.com>

<https://metra.com/>

An optional day out to the tramway at the Threshers Museum at Mount Pleasant. <https://www.oldthreshers.org/> Please note it is a 540 mile day out but considered worth a visit. This will be an optional extra with the costs split between those who take this option.

Day 11 - 24th June

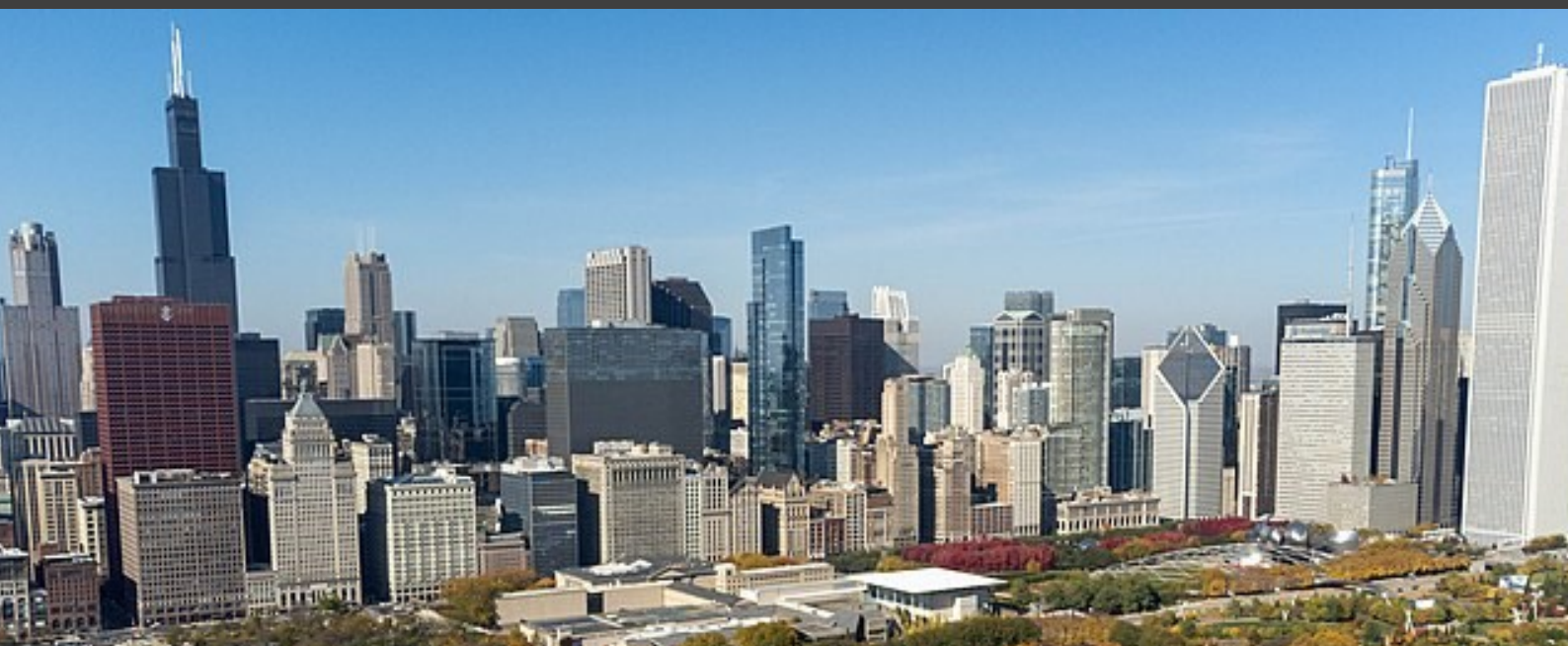
An 08h00 to East Troy Trolley Museum (82 miles). <https://www.easttroyrr.org> Lunchtime we move on to Rockford but only if it is operating but it is not currently. <https://rockfordparkdistrict.org/trolley>

Then to the Fox Trolley line at South Elgin(58 miles).

<https://www.foxtrolley.org/> Finally back to Evanston.(38 miles).

Day 12 - 25th June

Just a total of 120 miles today to visit the extensive Illinois Railway Museum at Union. <https://www.irm.org>



ITINERARY

CHICAGO

Day 13 - 26th June

Today we first visit Milwaukee to ride The Hop. This uses Brookville modern cars, and an extension (the L line) should be open by the time of our visit. Then onto Kenosha where the city loop is operated by PCC cars. The total mileage for the day is around 150 miles.

<https://thehopmke.com>

<https://www.kenosha.org/departments/transportation/lakefront-trolley>

https://www.kenosha.org/images/public-transit/2022_Streetcar_Brochure.pdf



ITINERARY

CHICAGO TO DETROIT

Day 15 - 28th June—SHORTEND TOUR ENDS HERE

If you have opted for the shorter trip you will be leaving the tour this morning

If you have opted for the longer tour, we move on to Detroit. (300 miles). For the first 90 miles we will try to arrange to ride the Shore line to South Bend as part of this journey.

Also, we will call at the Lost Railway Museum at Grass Lake MI charting history of early interurban lines. <https://www.lostrailwaymuseum.org/>

We are also hoping to visit the Southern Michigan Railroad, 26 miles beyond Grass Lake. <http://www.southernmichiganrailroad.com>

Two museums have exhibits of interest in Detroit which is the home of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn (13 miles west). <https://www.thehenryford.org>

The Michigan Transit Museum is 27 miles north of Detroit at Mount Clemens which has very limited opening times. <http://www.michigantransitmuseum.com>

We are staying at the Indigo Detroit Downtown for two nights. Detroit has a central circular people mover and a newer streetcar line at a tangent to the shore opened in 2017. <https://qlinedetroit.com/>
<https://www.thepeoplemover.com>

Day 16 - 29th June

Free day in Detroit.

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CLEVELAND

Day 17 - 30th June

We leave at 08h00 for Cleveland (170 miles) where we stay at Hotel Indigo downtown.

Here we have one subway and two light rail lines one of which replaced the famous Shaker Heights interurban cars. There is also a waterfront line currently suspended with the contract for repairs let it may just have resumes by our visit and a BRT network.

<https://www.riderta.com>

Day 18 - 1st July

First to the Northern Ohio Railway Museum at Lake Chippewa (45miles). Here the museum has two miles of track and a collection of original Shaler Heights and Cleveland cars.

Onto to Dayton (176 miles) where we stay at the Holiday Inn Express Huber Heights. Dayton is one of five US cities which have retained trolleybuses.

<https://www.iriderta.org>

<http://www.dayontrolleys.net/>



ITINERARY

CINCINNATI

Day 19 - 2nd July

First to Cincinnati where the modern streetcars started in 2016. (60 miles). <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/streetcar>

Next to the Ohio Railway Museum at Columbus (120 miles) where they have both streetcars and interurbans which operate.

<https://www.facebook.com/OhioRailwayMuseum/>

Finally returning to Dayton. (73 miles)



Day 20 - 3rd July

Leaving at lunchtime for Pittsburgh (250 miles) where we will stay at the Crowne Plaza South.

ITINERARY

PITTSBURGH

Day 21 - 4th July

Leaving our hotel after breakfast to visit the Pennsylvania Trolley museum at Washington. (17 miles)

<https://pa-trolley.org/>

Day 22 - 5th July

Free day in Pittsburgh. The LRT system is a development of the first generation lines and LRT replaced PCC cars. There are also two inclines of note. <https://www.rideprt.org/>

<http://www.duquesneincline.org/>

<https://monongahelaincline.com/>

TOUR ENDS

TOUR COST

£4395 per person,

Single rooms available at a supplement of £1,997.

The shortened tour ending in Chicago

£3895 per person

Single rooms available at a supplement of £1,475

We can arrange twin share rooms with other participants please let us know if you would like this option

Ground arrangements only. If you are travelling from the UK we can arrange flights and your package will be fully ATOL protected

Hotels Included

HI Express Pasadena

HI Express San Diego Old Town

HI City Bricktown Oklahoma

HI Express Kansas City

The Graduate Evanston, Chicago

Indigo Detroit

Indigo Cleveland

HI Express Dayton Huber Heights

Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh

All coaching transfers are included

No tram tours or admissions are included in the costs quoted but are arranged for the group.

**Please email tom@bartonhill.com or call
01444 273014 for further information or to
get a booking form**

ABOUT BARTON HILL & ARMCHAIR

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With a proven track record of providing specialist ground arrangements throughout Europe, we have arranged and continue to arrange a diverse range of tours with varying themes such as vintage machinery, collectable miniatures, embroidery, industrial heritage, religious pilgrimages, historical events, trams, cars and literature. We also create specialist educational tours for schools such as language or history, performance group tours for visiting choirs and also specialist sports tours for sporting events such as the Silverstone Grand Prix and the Rugby World Cup.

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UKINBOUND
MEMBER 2021/22

