

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Crossing the United States  
to the West Coast

9 September – 4 October 1912

# Crossing the country by train

'Abdu'l-Bahá traveled by train across the United States to the West Coast between 9 September and 4 October, stopping in many cities along the way.

On 9-12 September, Buffalo, New York

On 12 September He was taken to visit Niagara Falls.



Niagara Falls, between the USA and Canada

# Visit to Niagara Falls

*“There were small waterfalls in Mázindarán which Bahá’u’lláh liked so much that He used to camp near them for several days.”*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Earl Redman, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 189)*

# Chicago

'Abdu'l-Bahá visited Chicago again on 12-15 September 1912. He stayed first with Corinne True, whom He had put in charge of the temple project, a woman dealing with many men.

# Speaking in Public

Abdu'l-Bahá told Mrs. Corinne True:

*“Mrs. True, I want you to speak in public. I want you to tell the people about the Faith.”* She objected, not considering herself a trained speaker. He told her how to do it. *“Forget what you can’t do. Stand up and turn your heart wholly toward me. Look over the heads of the audience and I’ll never fail you.”*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Earl Redman, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 195)*

# Itinerary

15-16 September, Kenosha, Wisconsin

16 September Chicago, Illinois

16-21 September, Minneapolis, Minnesota



'Abdu'l-Bahá in Kenosha, Wisconsin



# Scattering some Seeds

After receiving many invitations, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said:

*We come and in each city we create a stir, scatter some seeds, awaken the people, inform them of the Most Great Call and then leave. In this short space of time our work is to proclaim the Cause of God and, praise be to God, the results are evident day by day and accompanied by great confirmations.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 197)

# Central States

21 September, Omaha, Nebraska

23 September, Lincoln, Nebraska

24-27 September, Denver, Colorado

In Denver, 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave a talk in a private home on 24 September 1912 on Materialism or Love of God

# Materialism or Love of God

*Observe how darkness has overspread the world. In every corner of the earth there is strife, discord and warfare of some kind. Mankind is submerged in the sea of materialism and occupied with the affairs of this world.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 107)*

# Materialism or Love of God

*They have no thought beyond earthly possessions and manifest no desire save the passions of this fleeting, mortal existence. Their utmost purpose is the attainment of material livelihood, physical comforts and worldly enjoyments such as constitute the happiness of the animal world rather than the world of man.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 107)*

# Materialism or Love of God

*The honor of man is through the attainment of the knowledge of God; his happiness is from the love of God; his joy is in the glad tidings of God; his greatness is dependent upon his servitude to God. The highest development of man is his entrance into the divine Kingdom, and the outcome of this human existence is the nucleus and essence of eternal life.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, 107)*

# Materialism or Love of God

*If man is bereft of the divine bestowals and if his enjoyment and happiness are restricted to his material inclinations, what distinction or difference is there between the animal and himself? In fact, the animal's happiness is greater, for its wants are fewer and its means of livelihood easier to acquire.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 107)*

# Glenwood Springs

28 September, Glenwood Springs, Colorado

'Abdu'l-Bahá stopped to rest in Glenwood Springs surrounded by high, forest-mantled mountains and wildflowers, and a river with rushing water. The beauty of the scenes reminded Him of His Father.





Glenwood Springs, Colorado



# In Glenwood Springs

*May God not have mercy on the tyrants who kept the Blessed Beauty imprisoned between four walls in 'Akká. How such scenes were loved by Him! Once He said that he had not seen scenery for several years.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 207)

# Salt Lake City

29-30 September, Salt Lake City, Utah.

'Abdu'l-Bahá visited the Utah State Fair and bought some seeds to send back to the Holy Land. He tried to visit the Mormon Tabernacle, but was refused entry.

On 30 September- 4 October, He took the train on to San Francisco, California.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

