

# News Release



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## AMTRAK SAYS BOOK EARLY FOR THANKSGIVING TRAVEL More options with new service expansions in Maine and North Carolina

WASHINGTON – In anticipation of its busiest travel week of the year, Amtrak is encouraging passengers to plan ahead for Thanksgiving travel and book their tickets early for best availability and pricing.

The busiest travel days that are likely to sell out are the Tuesday and Wednesday before and the Saturday and Sunday following Thanksgiving. Passengers may also wish to consider traveling on less-busy days such as the Monday before or the Friday and Monday following the Thanksgiving holiday, when more travel and price options may be available.

In time for this year's Thanksgiving holiday, Amtrak will offer two new service expansions. Starting Nov. 1, the [Downeaster will offer expanded rail service to Freeport and Brunswick, Maine](#). Tickets for this new service go on sale Oct. 1. In addition, tickets are now available for new [Amtrak Thruway bus service in Eastern North Carolina](#) that will provide rail connections for eight communities starting Oct. 3.

In preparation for the anticipated heavy holiday passenger volume, Amtrak will operate every available passenger rail car in its fleet and is scheduling extra trains to accommodate additional passengers in the Northeast, Midwest, and on the West Coast.

More than 724,000 passengers traveled on Amtrak trains for the Thanksgiving holiday in 2011, the most ever for the holiday.

### **About Amtrak®:**

Amtrak is America's Railroad®, the nation's intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. A record 30.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2011 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates intercity trains in partnership with 15 states and contracts with 13 commuter rail agencies to provide a variety of services. Enjoy the journey® at [Amtrak.com](#) or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on [facebook.com/Amtrak](#) and follow us at [twitter.com/Amtrak](#).

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