

News Release



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AMTRAK PREPARED FOR THANKSGIVING TRAVEL Extra trains added across the country to accommodate more passengers and connect families for the holiday

WASHINGTON – Anticipating its busiest travel week of the year, Amtrak is planning ahead for Thanksgiving to help connect families for the holiday. 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.

On what is anticipated to be the heaviest single travel day of the year for Amtrak—the Wednesday before Thanksgiving— America’s Railroadsm expects ridership to reach as many as 127,000 passengers system-wide. Last year, Amtrak carried nearly 686,000 passengers for the holiday week setting a new Thanksgiving ridership record.

Extra trains and/or added capacity to existing trains will operate in the Northeast Corridor, the Chicago hub, the Pacific Northwest and in California with most of the additional trains and capacity running on the two busiest travel days, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 24 and the Sunday after, November 28.

A special Thanksgiving Holiday Timetable for the Northeast Corridor services is also now available. All Amtrak trains in the Northeast will require reservations – including the Harrisburg-Philadelphia *Keystone Service*, the New York-Buffalo *Empire Service* and the New Haven-Springfield *Shuttles*.

In addition, from November 22 to 26 passengers traveling on Amtrak long-distance trains will be offered a menu item of a traditional Thanksgiving meal featuring a fully-cooked turkey breast with gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce and side accompaniments. Pumpkin Pecan Praline pie will be offered as a dessert option.

Amtrak is working to make the holiday travel experience as pleasant as possible and encourages passengers to consider the following holiday travel tips to help ensure a smooth trip:

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- **Avoid the Rush:** The busiest Amtrak travel days are the Wednesday before and Sunday after Thanksgiving. Purchase tickets early using Amtrak.com, QuikTraksm ticket vending machines or ticket windows at staffed stations, or by calling 800-USA-RAIL.
- **Arrive at the Station Early:** Allow plenty of time at stations prior to departure – at least 45 minutes before if tickets need to be picked up. Arrange for pre-boarding if you need extra time or assistance and use Red Cap agents to help you with your baggage. In addition, suburban Amtrak stops can be less crowded than downtown locations and can enable you to get a jump on your trip if the station is in your direction of travel.
- **Know the Limits:** Note the limit of two carry-on bags per person (excluding laptops, purses, briefcases), and be sure all luggage is tagged with your name and address.
- **Carry photo ID:** Passengers are required to show valid photo identification when purchasing tickets. Make sure to carry valid photo ID at all times, as it may be requested aboard trains.
- **Be Safe:** Be aware of your surroundings, stand back from the edge of the platform, do not leave your bags unattended, and watch your step when boarding and leaving the train or when walking between cars while the train is in motion.
- **Security Matters:** If you see something suspicious or unusual, say something and call Amtrak Police at 1-800-331-0008. In addition, passengers may experience Amtrak police officers at stations and onboard trains as part of a planned increased security effort, including random baggage screening at various stations.

About Amtrak

As the nation's intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2010), the railroad carried over 28.7 million passengers, making it the best year in the company's history. With 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day—at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph)—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the partner of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for several commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/amtrak and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Amtrak.

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