

# News Release



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Amtrak Contact: Marc Magliari  
312 544.5390

[MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com](mailto:MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com)

BNSF Contact: Amy McBeth  
763 782.3212

[Amy.McBeth@BNSF.com](mailto:Amy.McBeth@BNSF.com)

## AMTRAK *EMPIRE BUILDER* BACK TO NORMAL SCHEDULE More popular timetables for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana; Detours end in North Dakota

CHICAGO – Amtrak will resume operating the [\*Empire Builder\*](#) (Trains 7/27 & 8/28) on its regular schedule and route in both directions, effective with the departures of Jan. 12, 2015.

The return of the previous timetables from Seattle and Portland will offer more attractive arrival and departure times for the balance of the winter recreation season in the Flathead Valley of Montana, near Glacier National Park. Additionally, Leavenworth and Spokane, Wash., and Sandpoint, Idaho, passengers will again enjoy same-day round trips to Portland or Seattle.

Three additional hours eastbound and 90 minutes westbound were added to the schedules in April west of St. Paul, Minn. This was done to accommodate \$1 billion in BNSF construction projects to add capacity and to help improve service for all traffic on its route.

Amtrak and BNSF continue to work cooperatively on the operational and maintenance issues that affect Amtrak trains on this line. BNSF is committed to work to improve the performance of the *Empire Builder* going forward.

“Local community and business leaders depend on the *Empire Builder* and see Amtrak service as an important public transportation link,” said DJ Stadler, Amtrak Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer. “We will work closely with BNSF to fulfill a commitment to Amtrak passengers and our communities to operate this train on schedules our customers expect.”

“BNSF has a long history of hosting passenger service on our freight network. The investments we are continuing to make will help improve reliability for all our customers, including Amtrak,” said DJ Mitchell, AVP Passenger Operations, BNSF Railway.

- more -

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

Chicago Union Station, 500 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60661-5702 tel 312 544.5390 fax 202 799.NEWS [MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com](mailto:MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com)

Also effective with the schedule restoration, the *Empire Builder* will resume operating on its normal route in both directions in North Dakota. Amtrak will then discontinue the use of chartered buses to cover missed station stops in Grand Forks, Devils Lake and Rugby, N.D., which has been routine since May.

Amtrak President & CEO Joe Boardman visited North Dakota earlier this year to engage community leaders and stressed the importance of reliable service.

Current on-time performance data are available on [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com), including responsibility for each element of delay. This information is also presented to passengers when booking travel on the website and is available elsewhere from Amtrak.

**About Amtrak®**

Amtrak is America's Railroad®, the nation's intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. Amtrak and its state and commuter partners move people, the economy and the nation forward. Formally known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak is governed by a nine member board of directors appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Anthony R. Coscia is board chairman and Jeffrey R. Moreland is vice chairman. In FY 2014, nearly 31 million passengers traveled on Amtrak 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. Enjoy the journey® at [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter (@Amtrak) and check out our blog at [blog.amtrak.com](http://blog.amtrak.com).

**About BNSF Railway**

BNSF Railway is one of North America's leading freight transportation companies operating on 32,500 route miles of track in 28 states and two Canadian provinces. BNSF is one of the top transporters of consumer goods, grain and agricultural products, low-sulfur coal, and industrial goods such as petroleum, chemicals, housing materials, food and beverages. BNSF's shipments help feed, clothe, supply, and power American homes and businesses every day. BNSF and its employees have developed one of the most technologically advanced, and efficient railroads in the industry. We work continuously to improve the value of the safety, service, energy, and environmental benefits we provide to our customers and the communities we serve. You can learn more about BNSF at [www.BNSF.com](http://www.BNSF.com).

# (timetable attached) #

7/27	◀ Train Number ▶				8/28
Daily	◀ Normal Days of Operation ▶				Daily
	◀ On Board Service ▶				
Read Down	Mile		Symbol	Read Up	
2 15P	0	Dp	Chicago, IL—Union Station (CT)	Ar	3 55P
R2 39P	17		Glenview, IL (METRA/Milw. Line)		D3 12P
R3 52P	85		Milwaukee, WI		D2 07P
5 02P	150		Columbus, WI (Madison)		12 57P
5 31P	178		Portage, WI		12 27P
5 49P	195		Wisconsin Dells, WI		12 08P
6 27P	240		Tomah, WI		11 26A
7 11P	281		La Crosse, WI		10 47A
7 47P	308		Winona, MN		10 11A
			☞ Rochester—see below right		
8 49P	371		Red Wing, MN		8 54A
9 53P	418	Ar	St. Paul—Minneapolis, MN	Dp	8 03A
10 10P		Dp	☞ Duluth—see back	Ar	7 47A
12 30A	486		St. Cloud, MN		5 14A
1 32A	552		Staples, MN		4 09A
2 28A	614		Detroit Lakes, MN		3 10A
3 30A	662		Fargo, ND (Moorhead, MN)		2 13A
4 47A	737		Grand Forks, ND		12 57A
6 08A	822		Devils Lake, ND		11 32P
7 02A	879		Rugby, ND		10 38P
8 29A	940	Ar	Minot, ND	Dp	9 42P
9 06A		Dp	☞ Missoula—see back	Ar	9 22P
9 57A	994		Stanley, ND		8 11P
11 07A	1061		Williston, ND (CT)		7 09P
			☞ Missoula—see back		
11 41A	1168		Wolf Point, MT (MT)		4 33P
12 26P	1217		Glasgow, MT		3 47P
1 25P	1283		Malta, MT		2 52P
2 39P	1370	Ar	Havre, MT	Dp	1 32P
3 04P		Dp		Ar	1 12P
5 22P	1475		Shelby, MT		11 43A
			☞ Great Falls—see below right		
5 51P	1499		Cut Bank, MT		10 45A
6 23P	1532		Browning, MT <sup>40</sup>		10 10A
40	1547		East Glacier Park, MT <sup>40</sup>		40
7 41P	1576		Essex, MT—Izaak Walton Inn		8 55A
8 23P	1603		West Glacier, MT (Apgar)		8 16A
8 56P	1626	Ar	Whitefish, MT	Dp	7 46A
9 16P		Dp		Ar	7 26A
10 59P	1728		Libby, MT (MT)		5 26A
11 49P	1813		Sandpoint, ID (PT)		2 35A
1 40A	1879	Ar	Spokane, WA (PT)	Dp	1 30A
			(Coeur d'Alene, ID)		
27	Through cars Chicago—Portland				28
2 45A	1879	Dp	Spokane, WA (PT)	Ar	12 13A
5 35A	2025		Pasco, WA (Kennewick, Richland)		8 57P
7 30A	2150		Wishram, WA (The Dalles)		6 55P
8 04A	2180		Bingen-White Salmon, WA		6 21P
9 18A	2245		Vancouver, WA		5 07P
10 10A	2255	Ar	Portland, OR (PT)	Dp	4 45P
7	Through cars Chicago—Seattle				8
2 15A	1879	Dp	Spokane, WA (PT)	Ar	12 45A
4 22A	1998		Ephrata, WA		9 42P
5 35A	2050		Wenatchee, WA		8 42P
			☞ Omak—see back		
6 08A	2072		Leavenworth, WA		8 00P
8 38A	2171		Everett, WA		5 39P
9 10A	2188		Edmonds, WA		5 12P
10 25A	2205	Ar	Seattle, WA (Victoria, BC <sup>40</sup> ) (PT)	Dp	4 40P
			☞ Vancouver, BC—see back		

## Service on the Empire Builder®

- Coaches:** Coach service with at-seat meal service upon request. Reservations required.
- Sleeping cars:** Superliner sleeping accommodations.
  - Amtrak Metropolitan Lounge available in Chicago and Portland, and a private waiting area available in St. Paul—Minneapolis for Sleeping car passengers.
- Dining:** Full meal service.
  - Not available between Spokane and Portland; Sleeping car passengers will receive complimentary cold meal service.
- Sightseer Lounge:** Sandwiches, snacks and beverages.
  - (Note—Combined Diner/Lounge provides food and beverage service between Spokane and Seattle).
- Checked baggage at select stations.
- Connections available to/from Salem, Albany and Eugene-Springfield.
- Browning station is open through April 18; East Glacier Park station reopens April 19.

All Amtrak services and stations are non-smoking.

**Trails and Rails Program:** In cooperation with the National Park Service, volunteer rangers provide on board narratives between May and September on selected routes. Visit [nps.gov/trailsandrails](http://nps.gov/trailsandrails) and [amtraktoparks.com](http://amtraktoparks.com).

## Scenic Highlights

- Wisconsin Dells
- Glacier National Park, Montana
- Mississippi River
- Gateway to Mount Rainier, Washington
- Rocky Mountains
- Columbia River Gorge

## Shading Key

Long-distance train

## Possible Empire Builder Delays

The *Empire Builder* schedule is subject to delay while the BNSF Railway carries out track infrastructure projects to increase capacity in North Dakota and Montana for both passenger and freight train traffic. Please consult [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL for the latest information.

## Connecting Local Services

### Winona—Rochester

Specialty Tours provides twice-daily shuttle service between the Amtrak Winona station and Rochester, Minnesota, with drop-off and pick-up at the Mayo Clinic, hotels, and other locations. Reservations are required. To contact Specialty Tours call (507) 282-8673, fax (507) 289-1275 or email [SpecialtyTours@gmail.com](mailto:SpecialtyTours@gmail.com).

### Shelby—Great Falls

Northern Transit Interlocal provides transportation twice weekly between Shelby and Great Falls. For more information, call (406) 470-0727.

[BLOG.AMTRAK.COM](http://BLOG.AMTRAK.COM)



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## Northstar Commuter Rail

Northstar trains serve the Minneapolis-Big Lake corridor with a bus transfer to St. Cloud. For information, call (612) 373-3333, or visit [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org).