

News Release



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Contact: Media Relations
202 906.3860

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

WASHINGTON – Preparing for 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.

Extra trains and/or added capacity to existing trains will operate on 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, Nov. 23 and the Sunday after, Nov. 27.

The heaviest single travel day of the year for Amtrak is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving which set a record last year of 134,230 passengers for the day. Amtrak also set a record last year by transporting 704,446 passengers for the holiday week. Amtrak anticipates similarly strong ridership for this year's Thanksgiving travel.

A special Thanksgiving Holiday Timetable for the Northeast Corridor services will be available online Nov. 4 and in stations on Nov. 7. 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 Nov. 23 to 25, 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 pie with whipped cream and maple walnuts will be offered as a dessert option.

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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:

- **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, the Amtrak [iPhone app](#) 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. Call Amtrak Police at 1.800.331.0008 or 911. Passengers may notice additional police presence at stations and on board our trains as part of our planned increased security efforts which also include random baggage screening at various stations.

About Amtrak

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America's Railroad®, Amtrak is the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only 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 trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Enjoy the journeysm at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on [facebook.com/Amtrak](https://www.facebook.com/Amtrak) and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

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