

# Holiday Travel Tips

When traveling during popular holidays, Amtrak trains and stations receive higher passenger counts than a typical day. In some instances, when there is higher demand, Amtrak will operate schedules with additional frequencies and capacity. Regular Amtrak booking procedures apply, and some typically-unreserved trains require reservations in advance of travel.

During these times, here are some travel tips to ensure a smooth trip during the holiday season:

- **Buy tickets early:** Tickets will sell out quickly. Travelers can easily purchase tickets using [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com), or on the [Amtrak mobile app](#).
- **Avoid the Rush, Arrive Early:** Customers are encouraged to arrive 45 minutes before departure.
- **Enhanced Experience:** Most trains feature free Wi-Fi, the freedom to use electronic devices (no “airplane mode”), large spacious seats, ample leg room and no middle seat.
- **2+2 = Free:** Amtrak has the friendliest [baggage](#) policy in the travel industry. Customers can bring two bags and two carry-ons, up to 150 pounds for free!
- **Travel with Your Furry Friend:** For only \$26, [cats and small dogs](#) (20 pounds or less) are welcome for trips up to seven hours on most routes.
- **Check Train Schedules:** Check holiday train schedules and status before arriving at the station on [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com), [Track Your Train](#) (on Amtrak.com), or using the [Amtrak mobile app](#).
- **Carry Photo ID:** Customers are required to show travel documents and a valid photo ID.
- **Safety First:** If you see something, say something. Report any suspicious activity or unattended items to an Amtrak employee or member of the Amtrak Police Department at (800) 331-0008, by calling 911, or by sending a text to APD11 from a smartphone, or to 27311 from a standard cell phone.

Customers can easily connect directly with Amtrak before, during and after their travels:

- Download the [Amtrak app](#) for easy booking and travel updates.
- To connect with customer service follow [Amtrak](#) on Facebook and [@Amtrak](#) on Twitter.
- For real time service alerts, follow [@AmtrakNECAAlerts](#) for updates within the Northeast Region and [@AmtrakAlerts](#) for any other alerts outside of that region.
- We encourage customers to share their Amtrak experience on all social media channels by tagging [@Amtrak](#) and using the hashtag #Amtrak in their posts.

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