



National Train Day Fact Sheet

Overview	National Train Day celebrates America's love for trains with events across the country. This year marks the third annual celebration with large-scale, family-friendly events that provide opportunities to explore interactive, educational exhibits that bring to life the rich narrative of how trains have transformed America and will continue to do so in the future.
Date	May 8, 2010
Time	11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Locations	Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles In addition to the four major market events, communities across the country are encouraged to develop and host their own National Train Day celebrations. More than 140 local celebrations took place in 2009 and Amtrak expects even more in 2010.
Admission	Free
Web site	Launching February 23 – www.NationalTrainDay.com
Exhibits and Activities	<p>As part of National Train Day, each major market event will feature live entertainment, interactive and educational exhibits, kid's entertainment, food demonstrations, model train displays, and tours of notable private cars, Amtrak equipment, freight, and commuter trains. This year's National Train Day events will offer the following exhibits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Trains Move our Economy Exhibit</u>: Discover how upgrades to Amtrak's infrastructure and expansion of high-speed corridors will create jobs and establish a greener, world-class rail transportation system.• <u>Go-Green Express: Eco Exhibit</u>: Learn about how Amtrak is providing greener options for travel, including energy efficient locomotives, reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and alternative fuel trials.• <u>National Park Service Trails & Rails Exhibit</u>: National Park Service, Trails & Rails, Volunteers and Rangers will be stationed throughout the event to meet with the public and highlight how trains have historically impacted the National Park Service and explain its current partnership with Amtrak.• <u>Train Equipment Displays</u>: At the newly expanded train displays, get up close and personal with Amtrak equipment to experience first-hand the modern amenities and accommodations offered by passenger rail. Then get an inside peek at how passengers traveled in generations past by touring a variety of historic train cars and privately-owned luxury coaches.• <u>Culinary Exhibit</u>: Explore the history of dining on trains, view live-cooking demonstrations from Amtrak chefs and sample meals offered in Amtrak's dining cars.• <u>Model Train Displays</u>: Delight in the craft of model train displays and take a closer look at these miniature masterpieces.

- Amtrak Brand Display – Enjoy the Journey: Learn more about Amtrak’s range of connectivity, routes, train technology, amenities and onboard offerings.
- AmtraKids Depot: Enjoy magicians, face painters, arts and crafts, interactive games and giveaways at the AmtraKids Depot.
- Snapshot Station: Snap a photo in front of custom train-themed backdrops for a fun National Train Day keepsake.

Special Exhibits

Most major market events will also feature experiential exhibits that narrate each region’s rich history with trains.

History of Baseball’s Travel on Trains (Philadelphia)

- In the early days of America’s favorite pastime, trains helped baseball teams travel across the country to meet their rivals on the diamond. On National Train Day, Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station will feature an exhibit showcasing memorabilia, photos, video and audio depicting the memories of former players from a variety of leagues. A prominent sports personality will host a panel discussion with former players. Photos from the recent ‘Amtrak Series’ will also be displayed.

The Blues Journey and Connection to the Railroad (Chicago)

- Train travel played an important role in the emergence of blues as a major American art form and the development and migration of the sound from the Mississippi Delta north. On National Train Day at Chicago’s Union Station, Big Bill and Larry “Mud” Morganfield, the sons of celebrated blues musician Muddy Waters, will be joined by legendary Mississippi Delta blues player Bobby Rush to perform train-themed blues songs. This will be the last stop in a five-state tour aboard the Amtrak, originating in Muddy Water’s birthplace in Mississippi. The Chicago Blues Museum will also display a special blues exhibit at the station with a brief historical presentation by the museum’s curator, Gregg Parker.

Railroad Bracero Exhibit (Los Angeles)

- During World War II, thousands of Mexicans came to the U.S. to work legally under the “Railroad Braceros” program to build and maintain our nation’s passenger railroad system. At National Train Day in Los Angeles’ Union Station, an exhibit will honor the Hispanic contributions to the national railroad. Steve Velasquez, associate curator, National Museum of American History, will present on the *braceros* and their role in railroad history.

History

National Train Day marks 141 years of connecting travelers coast to coast and commemorates the day the first transcontinental railroad was created. On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the “golden spike” was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, transforming America by creating the nation’s first transcontinental railroad.

This act united the country and provided adventure for businessmen who saw fortunes to be made, created jobs for thousands of Americans and sparked the creative imaginations of storytellers in songs, movies and novels.

About Amtrak

As the nation’s intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it the second-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—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the operator of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for four commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.