



NATIONAL TRAIN DAY FACT SHEET

Overview

Now in its 5th year, National Train Day is back to celebrate train travel and the ways trains touch the lives of people with events across America. This year, festivities will highlight the unique perspective passengers enjoy as they take in the vastness and beauty of the American landscape, from cities big and small, to country vistas and everything in between, when traveling by rail.

Amtrak will host major events at train stations in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia. The events will feature live entertainment, interactive and educational activities about how trains have transformed America and will continue to do so in the future with high speed rail, as well as, fun activities for the entire family.

National Train Day will also bring the 'rail way' to life for attendees, and those participating online and through social media. To join in the celebration, passengers inspired by their train travel experience are encouraged to submit photos, video and stories at NationalTrainDay.com for a chance to win prizes.

For more information about National Train Day events, visit NationalTrainDay.com, [facebook.com/NationalTrainDay](https://www.facebook.com/NationalTrainDay) or @natltrainday.

Date

May 12, 2012

Time

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Locations

New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Chicago

In addition to the four markets listed above, communities across the country are encouraged to develop and host their own National Train Day celebrations. More than 200 such celebrations took place in towns across the country in 2011 and the number of events is expected to rise again this year.

Admission

Free

Spokesperson

Award-winning actress, writer and philanthropist **Rosario Dawson** will share her love of train travel and how it allows her to be involved in the community in a more personal way as National Train Day's spokesperson. A multi-faceted talent, Dawson is known to her legions of fans for her work in film, her leading roles with today's hottest film actors and directors, as well as for her philanthropic efforts in communities across the country.

-more-

National Train Day Exhibits

Experiences in the four markets will feature a wide array of activities including:

- Train Equipment Displays: In select markets, walk through privately owned, luxury railcars. Explore commuter displays, rail passenger services and freight equipment displays showing how “green” locomotives transform the nation’s freight fleet.
- Kids Depot: Bring the kids and let them build, explore and compete for surprise giveaways happening all day long at the *All Aboard Explorers’* kids zone.
- Model Train Displays: Take a closer look at the miniature masterpieces and marvel at the wonder of the model train displays that will be featured on-site at National Train Day.
- K-9 Unit Demonstrations: In select markets, interact with Amtrak Security K-9 Units, one of the largest programs in the United States.
- Amtrak High Speed Rail Display: Explore the future of high speed rail travel.
- Amtrak Culinary Experience: Enjoy live cooking demonstrations by Amtrak celebrity chefs and taste free samples of regional culinary specialties.
- See More Store: Take home a print, a t-shirt, and other memorabilia that will remind us to see more, do more, live more from the passenger seat of a train.

Exclusive Exhibits

In addition, signature events in New York City and Chicago will include the following exhibits from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2012:

- Amtrak 40th Anniversary Exhibit Train (New York City): The exhibit featured at the 5th Annual National Train Day Celebration at New York City’s Grand Central Terminal will include a locomotive, Bistro car, and renovated baggage cars displaying historic advertising, uniforms, photos, and memorabilia. A variety of commemorative items will also be available for purchase at the event.
- Hill Harper: Scenes from the Southwest Chief (Chicago): Actor Hill Harper, star of *CSI: NY* will share his personal Amtrak travel experience during the 5th Annual National Train Day Celebration at Chicago’s Union Station. Harper, also a noted author, wrote sections of his latest book *The Wealth Cure: Putting Money In Its Place* while traveling aboard the Southwest Chief from Los Angeles to Chicago in 2010.
- "See More on a Train" with Dora the Explorer (Los Angeles): Popular Nickelodeon character, Dora the Explorer, will wow the crowd at Union Station in Los Angeles during the 5th Annual National Train Day Celebration. Dora will greet fans, take photographs and explore various train travel adventures with attendees.

History

National Train Day marks the 143rd anniversary of the creation of the nation’s first transcontinental railroad. 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, forever transforming the face and character of America.

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 and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

###