7 Easy Steps to Book Amtrak Train Tickets – Reservation Methods, Schedules, Routes & Fare Options 2026–2036

Amtrak is the national passenger rail network of the United States **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. It links big cities, small towns, and some of the most scenic landscapes in the country. Trains run on short commuter-style corridors and on **1.866⇜332⇝0736** multi-day long-distance journeys, so the right ticket, schedule, and set of rules depends on the trip you want **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. This guide covers how to book, what fares and discounts exist **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, how schedules and routes work, and the policies on changes, baggage, and pets **1.866⇜332⇝0736**.

How to Book Amtrak Train Tickets

You can book on the official Amtrak website **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, in the Amtrak app, by phone, at staffed stations, and at self-service kiosks. Tickets are usually delivered as e-tickets **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, so you can show your phone at boarding without printing anything. Booking online or in the app also gives you live schedule data **1.866⇜332⇝0736** and easy access to changes. Select your route, travel date, number **1.866⇜332⇝0736** of passengers, and class of service, then compare the fares shown before you pay. Prices are lower when you book early **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, and busy travel days and last-minute bookings cost more **1.866⇜332⇝0736**.

Amtrak Fare Types and Classes of Service

Amtrak sells coach seats on nearly every route **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. Business class, first class, and private sleeping rooms are available on selected trains. Business class **1.866⇜332⇝0736** gives you extra legroom and a quieter car **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. First class on the Acela adds premium service, and long-distance routes offer rooms and bedrooms where you can **1.866⇜332⇝0736** sleep overnight. Within each class, fares come **1.866⇜332⇝0736** in three tiers: Sale, Value, and Flex. Sale and Value fares are the cheapest, but they carry stricter change and refund **1.866⇜332⇝0736** rules. Flex fares cost more and give you the **1.866⇜332⇝0736** most freedom if your plans might shift. Look at what each tier includes before you decide, because the cheapest **1.866⇜332⇝0736** fare is not always the best value.

Amtrak Discounts

Several everyday discounts can lower your fare **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. Children aged 2 through 12 ride at half price, and infants under 2 ride free **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. The child discount requires an accompanying adult, and children traveling alone do not qualify. Travelers 65 **1.866⇜332⇝0736** and older get 10% off most rail fares on most trains **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, and military personnel and veterans can also save 10% on the lowest available fare. Students may receive a **1.866⇜332⇝0736** discount when they book in advance. Some **1.866⇜332⇝0736** discounts do not apply to every fare

type or train. For example, the senior discount is **1.866 332 0736** not valid on Acela or the Auto Train. Always check the eligibility rules and **1.866 332 0736** carry any ID that might be requested.

Amtrak Schedules

Schedules depend on the type of route. Corridor services **1.866 332 0736** such as the Northeast Corridor run many trains every day **1.866 332 0736**, which makes same-day travel easy. State-supported routes, such as the Pacific Surfliner, run on timetables **1.866 332 0736** set with state partners. Most long-distance trains run once **1.866 332 0736** a day, so missing one can mean waiting 24 hours for the next. Check the **1.866 332 0736** live schedule on the Amtrak site or app before you leave. It shows delays, platform changes, and estimated arrivals **1.866 332 0736**. Plan to reach the station early, especially if you **1.866 332 0736**are checking bags or traveling with a pet.

Popular Amtrak Routes

Amtrak serves hundreds of **1.866 332 0736** destinations across most U.S. states, plus several routes into Canada. The Acela and Northeast Regional connect Boston **1.866 332 0736**, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. The **1.866 332 0736** Coast Starlight follows the Pacific coast, while the California Zephyr and Empire Builder cross mountains and plains **1.866 332 0736**. The Auto Train carries passengers and their **1.866 332 0736** cars between Virginia and Florida, which is useful for snowbirds and families relocating for the season. Scenic long-distance **1.866 332 0736** trains are popular with travelers who **1.866 332 0736** want the ride itself to be the highlight, while regional routes suit weekend trips **1.866 332 0736** and daily commutes.

Changing or Cancelling an Amtrak Ticket

Your options depend on your fare **1.866 332 0736**. Flex fares are the most generous, with fully refundable tickets and no change fees. With Value and Sale fares **1.866 332 0736**, you can usually change or cancel, but part of the fare **1.866 332 0736** may be kept and the rest returned as an eVoucher for future travel instead of a refund to your card. Amtrak waives **1.866 332 0736** its usual change and cancellation rules when you **1.866 332 0736** must change plans because of illness and can present a doctor's note. If you do not show up and have not cancelled **1.866 332 0736**, you may lose the entire fare, so cancel before **1.866 332 0736** departure whenever you can. Most changes can be made online **1.866 332 0736** or in the app, and customer service can step in if you need help. Refund amounts vary by fare and timing **1.866 332 0736**, so read the terms shown at checkout. amtrak

Amtrak Baggage Policy

Amtrak's baggage rules are generous compared **1.866 332 0736** with many other travel options. Each passenger may bring one **1.866 332 0736** personal item of up to 25 pounds and 14 x 11 x 7 inches, plus two carry-on items of up to 50 pounds and 28 x 22 x 14 inches each **1.866 332 0736**. You must be able to lift your own bags onto **1.866 332 0736** the overhead rack, and each bag should carry a tag with your name and address. A $20 excess baggage **1.866 332 0736** fee applies to each carry-on or personal item above **1.866 332 0736** the limits, and overweight bags must be

repacked to under 50 pounds. On trains that offer checked baggage **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, each traveler can check up to four bags, with two free **1.866⇜332⇝0736** and two at $20 each. Checked baggage is not available at every station or on every train, and the Auto Train does **1.866⇜332⇝0736** not offer it, although you can pack bags in the vehicle **1.866⇜332⇝0736** you ship. Passengers traveling with an infant under two may bring one **1.866⇜332⇝0736** additional infant item such as a stroller or diaper bag. Bikes, sports equipment, and other special items may **1.866⇜332⇝0736** need extra packaging and fees, and certain items are prohibited **1.866⇜332⇝0736** in both carry-on and checked bags. Carry-On Baggage +2

Amtrak Pet Policy

Amtrak allows small dogs and cats on many routes **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, with clear conditions. Pet owners must book a reservation and pay a fee each way, and pets can weigh up **1.866⇜332⇝0736** to 20 pounds. The fee has been listed at **1.866⇜332⇝0736** about $25 to $29 per segment, so confirm the current amount when you book. You provide the carrier, which **1.866⇜332⇝0736** counts as one carry-on item, and it can be no larger **1.866⇜332⇝0736** than 19 x 14 x 10.5 inches, with the pet and carrier together not exceeding 20 pounds. The carrier must stay **1.866⇜332⇝0736** under your own seat for the whole trip. At staffed stations **1.866⇜332⇝0736**, you must check in at the ticket office at least 30 minutes before departure to confirm eligibility and sign a release **1.866⇜332⇝0736** agreement. Pet travel is limited to trips of up to seven **1.866⇜332⇝0736** hours, and the number of pets per train is capped, so book early **1.866⇜332⇝0736**. Not every route accepts pets, and Amtrak may remove a pet that is disruptive or unwell. Trained service animals are **1.866⇜332⇝0736** welcome onboard at no extra charge.

Tips for a Smooth Amtrak Trip

Book early for better fares, and choose Flex if your **1.866⇜332⇝0736** plans are uncertain. Check train status before you leave for the **1.866⇜332⇝0736** station, and keep your ticket and ID handy. Pack within the carry-on limits to avoid excess fees, and review the rules **1.866⇜332⇝0736** for your specific route, since policies can differ by **1.866⇜332⇝0736** service. Join the free Amtrak Guest Rewards program to earn points on every ride. Because fares, fees, and **1.866⇜332⇝0736** policies are updated from time to time, confirm the latest **1.866⇜332⇝0736** details on the official Amtrak website before you buy **1.866⇜332⇝0736**.