

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

November 2016



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Faster than the Mayflower...

...and we just don't stop at one rock!

Metro-North's convenient Thanksgiving holiday service will make you give thanks for avoiding traffic, tolls, and all the other headaches that come with driving on one of the busiest travel days of the year.

We'll be publishing a special Thanksgiving Holiday Timetable covering Thursday, November 24 – Sunday, November 27. So be sure to pick one up in Grand Central or at our outlying stations. You can also find train times on our [schedules page](#) at or by using our [Train Time App](#) on your iPhone or Android!



On Wednesday, November 23:

Take flight on one of our early getaway trains, which begin departing Grand Central at around 1 PM. See a regular timetable for details. Because of reduced ridership, some evening trains may be cancelled or combined.

On Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 24),

we will operate a weekend schedule with [additional inbound trains](#) for those of you heading to the Macy's Thanksgiving Holiday Parade. (*Nothing works up an appetite like watching a giant, gas-filled Pikachu parading down Sixth Avenue...*)

And we will have plenty of additional outbound service to get you home to the dinner table (*or to wherever you choose to feast*).



On the Day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 25),

we will operate a [Saturday schedule with additional trains](#) inbound in the AM and outbound in the PM so you can take advantage of all those Black Friday sales. (*Although all the best bargains may have been snapped up by those consumers who went shopping on Thanksgiving Day!*)

See our [special Thanksgiving Weekend schedule](#).

Finally, on Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27 :

we will provide regular weekend schedules [with additional Shoppers' Specials trains](#). (**And, see this story.**)

Off-peak fares are in effect for the entire four-day holiday,

and you can take advantage of **free parking** at many of our [stations](#). (Check for signs at stations, or call 511 for details. Outside of New York, call 877-690-5114.)

If you are traveling to/from Manhattan with family and friends to see the holiday sights, why not purchase a ten-trip, off-peak ticket and save 30 – 40% off the one-way fare. The ticket can be used by more than one person, even when you are traveling together. Or use our Family Fare and pay \$1 per ticket for up to four children (ages 5 – 11) when they are traveling with a fare-paying adult. (The fifth child and all other children pay the Child Fare).

See our [fare page](#) for details.

Finally, here's our recipe for happy Thanksgiving travel:

Buy your tickets in advance (*like your turkey*). Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year, and if you're leaving New York after the parade, you must have your ticket before boarding your train at Grand Central or Harlem-125th Street Station.

We recommend you use MTA eTix®, the mobile ticketing app that enables you to purchase one way, round trip, ten trip, weekly and monthly passes on your **Android**, **iPhone** or **iPad**.

Remember, please purchase your ticket BEFORE boarding the train!

(Also, be sure to scarf down a huge piece of pumpkin pie before embarking on your travels.)

All of us at Metro North wish you and your families a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

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Connecticut's New Haven Line Fare Increase Effective December 1, 2016

A Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) **fare increase** of 6% goes into effect on the Connecticut portion of the New Haven Line on December 1, 2016.



This increase will affect ticket prices for travel:

- Between stations within Connecticut
- Between stations in Connecticut and New York stations

The fare increase does not affect travel to/from stations within New York State.

Please note: WebTicket sales will no longer be available as of December 1st, 2016.

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We've Got Your Specials!

Our **Shoppers' Specials Service** returns for five weekends between November 19 and December 18, 2016!

This is either reason to cheer (*if you like to holiday shop without any hassle*) or to hide your credit cards.



On Saturdays, November 19 – December 17 look for:

- Two additional Upper Hudson Line trains.
- Eight additional outer New Haven Line trains.

On Sundays, November 20 – December 18 look for:

- Three additional outer New Haven Line trains.

Shoppers' Specials are listed in the current timetable or you can find them on our [schedules page](#) at or by using our **Train Time App** on your **iPhone** or **Android!**

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All Is Fair, Again!

The Grand Central Terminal Holiday Fair is one of the finest, longest-running indoor holiday fairs in New York City

Some 40 vendors will take over half of the historic Vanderbilt Hall from November 14 – December 24 to sell artwork, clothing for all ages, men's/women's accessories, children's clothing/toys and home goods.

No reindeer sweaters here!
We guarantee you will find interesting gifts for your friends and a few coveted items for yourself!

The Holiday Fair will be open Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 8 PM; Saturday, 10 AM – 7 PM; Sunday, 11 AM – 6 PM and Christmas Eve, 10 AM – 6 PM (But, take it from us, you really should have finished shopping by then!) The fair is closed on Thanksgiving Day.



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You Wish You Had These Trains Under Your Tree!

This year's **Holiday Train Show** at **The Transit Museum in Grand Central** (located next to the Stationmaster's Office) runs from November 14, 2016 – February 26, 2017, and features a 34-foot-long, "O gauge" model train layout with Lionel's model Metro-North, New York Central, and vintage subway trains running on eight separate loops of track.

Backdrops feature graphics celebrating the Museum's 40th anniversary by artist Julia Rothman. Vintage "O gauge" and "N gauge" model trains and a selection of Transit Museum Collection half-inch scale trolley models made by Dr. George Rahilly will also be on view.

The 15th Annual Holiday Train Show is sponsored by **Cubic Transportation Systems**. Generous, in-kind support is provided by Lionel.



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Christmas "Rapping!"

No, not the song by The Waitresses. (*We love that too, by the way...*)

If wrapping a holiday gift makes you break out in a cold sweat, or seems more complex than creating an origami ornament, you will be happy to know that the shops in Grand Central are celebrating the holiday season by offering shoppers **complimentary gift wrapping** from December 19 – 23.

Just present proof of any purchase from The Shops at Grand Central and you can get up to five gifts wrapped in custom wrapping paper featuring the iconic Zodiac ceiling of the Main Concourse!

And, shoppers who present proof of \$150 or more in combined purchases from The Shops at Grand Central will receive a **free, limited-edition Grand Central gift** in addition to the free wrapping!

THE SHOPS AT GRAND CENTRAL PRESENT

THE HOLIDAY WRAP-UP

- Complimentary gift wrapping services
- Custom gift wrap featuring iconic Main Concourse ceiling
- Free, limited-edition Grand Central gift with \$150 in combined purchases
- Gift ideas from The Shops at Grand Central

AND

Terminal-wide, in-store events and special promotions

For more info on in-store events and official rules, visit grandcentralterminal.com

While supplies last. Must present proof of purchase from The Shops at Grand Central for gift wrap and free gift. Gift wrapping limited to 5 gifts per person. Limit one free, limited-edition Grand Central gift per redemption. Note: Grand Central Holiday Fair purchases are not eligible towards gift wrapping and free gift.



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Dash away, Dash away, Dash away ALL... with Metro-North Holiday Getaways!

Misfits Welcome this Holiday Season

Take Metro-North to see *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical* at the Theater at Madison Square Garden and save up to 20% on tickets to select performances. All your favorite characters will be on stage, including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph.



Use code **MNR2016** when purchasing your tickets for *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*

- **Online**
at **Theater at Madison Square Garden**
- **By Phone**
Ticketmaster at **866-858-0008**
- **In Person**
at the Madison Square Garden Box Office
(7th Ave., between 31st & 33rd Sts.)



They Really "Kick-Off" The Holidays

The **Rockettes** are back at **Radio City Music Hall** for the *Christmas Spectacular*, kicking in unison across the stage.

And, as if they weren't entertaining enough, the Spectacular has reindeer prancing and dashing through the snow, Rag Dolls springing to life and Wooden Soldiers marching in a fantastic parade. It's enough to make you get in the true spirit of the holiday season.

Use code **MNR2016** when purchasing your tickets for *Christmas Spectacular*

• Online
at **Radio City
Music Hall**

• By Phone
Ticketmaster at
866-858-0007

• In Person
at the Radio City Music
Hall Box Office
(1260 6th Ave., between
50th & 51st Sts.)

Go Walking in a Winter Wonderland!

And you thought it was just
a song!

Stroll through
**Westchester's Winter
Wonderland** and
experience a one-of-a-kind
holiday extravaganza that
brings the best of Bryant
Park and Rockefeller
Center to Kensico Dam
Plaza in Valhalla, NY!



- **The Hanneford Holiday Circus** – the tri-state area's only tented holiday circus – is new to Winter Wonderland this season. See spectacular performances each night under the giant 'Big Top.'
- Visit and **take a selfie with Santa and Mrs. Claus** (*they are into it, too!*) Check the schedule for special character appearances from some of your favorites from the movies and TV.
- Skate outdoors with family and friends on the **Rangers Town Rink** against the stunning backdrop of Kensico Dam. (Ice skates are included with your admission!)
- Plus, there's a dazzling **holiday light show, three holiday rides, great local food and beverage offerings**, and more!

Winter Wonderland's \$15 pay-one-price admission includes all of the attractions, and kids age 5 and under are free! Join us for select evenings from November 27 – January 2, 2017.


Take the Harlem Line to Valhalla Station. Kensico Dam Plaza is a short walk from the station.



[See full details on all our Getaways packages.](#)



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Safety Rule of the Issue

 "Slip slide" isn't just a term that applies to our trains!

 The autumn leaves along with the season's drop in temperature make things "slippery" all around. (*They call the season "fall" for a reason!*)

 So please use caution when driving on leaf-covered roads to and from our stations and parking lots. Always use handrails on stairs, and never run (no matter what the season) on our train platforms. 

 We bring you these rules every month because your safety is always our first priority. 

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Courtesy Corner



Wild turkeys have quite the extensive grooming regime. They usually take a dust bath as part of their plumage maintenance (*got to keep those feathers in top condition*), followed by some sunning and preening.

Why they would like to look so good when someone is hunting them for dinner is beyond us!

We ask that you please do not behave like a turkey while traveling on your train this holiday season. Perform your preening — hair brushing, nail clipping, flossing, dust-bathing, etc.—in the privacy of your own home, where your fellow commuter can't see it.

It's the courteous thing to do!

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