

MILEPOSTS

A Newsletter for MTA Metro-North Railroad Customers

December 2016

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Forget the One-Horse Open Sleigh...

Metro-North is the best way to get around during this holiday season! We've got plenty of service, and a [special timetable](#) covering Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.



Unless your boss is a total Scrooge, you will want to take advantage of our **Christmas Getaway Service on Friday, December 23,**

with extra trains departing Grand Central beginning at around 1 PM. Because of reduced ridership, some evening trains may be cancelled or combined. See a [regular timetable](#) (or our [Train Time App](#)) for details.

On Christmas Eve Day, Saturday, December 24,

we will operate a regular Saturday schedule.

On Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25,

we will operate a regular Sunday schedule.

And since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, many businesses will observe the holiday on **Monday, December 26.**

On that day, we will operate a Saturday schedule with additional Shoppers' Specials trains. *(So you can head to the stores to spend all that holiday "loot" you were given, or return that fuzzy reindeer sweater your mom gave you ASAP.)*



For the **week between Christmas and New Year's** (Tuesday-Friday, December 27-30),

if your plans include seeing the tree at Rockefeller Center, strolling by the holiday window displays along Fifth Avenue, or just returning that holiday pine scented candle your "best" friend gave you, we will be able to get you there. We will operate a weekday schedule with reduced AM Peak service and additional inbound service operating in the late morning.

If you are traveling with family and friends, we suggest purchasing an off-peak ten-trip ticket. In addition to the discounted price, it is transferable, so everyone riding with you can use it. *(It is like the gift that keeps on giving!)*

We recommend you use [MTA eTix®](#), the [mobile ticketing app](#) that enables you to purchase , ten trip, one way, round trip, weekly and monthly passes on your smartphone or mobile device.



Once again, look for that early getaway service on **Friday, December 30.**

See December 23 service above.

On **New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31,**

we will operate a special schedule. For those of you planning to party in Times Square *(or anywhere else)*, our New Year's Eve schedule will include extra inbound late afternoon and early evening service.

And when the party truly is finally over, our "overnight" New Year's morning service will get you home from your New Year's celebrations.

Please remember that drinking alcohol on Metro-North trains and at our stations is banned from noon New Year's Eve until noon New Year's Day. *(Because there comes a time when the party really is over.)*

Your first resolution for the New Year should be to buy your tickets in advance: Those of you taking our early morning New Year service will have your tickets collected prior to boarding trains at Grand Central. Again, start the New Year off right and resolve to use **MTA eTix®**.



On New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017

we will operate a Sunday schedule.



And as an added bonus, this year **New Year's Day is observed on Monday, January 2.**

Since businesses and government offices are closed we will operate a Saturday schedule without the Shoppers Specials. *(Because if you haven't purchased that holiday gift for that special someone by then, you will never need to again.)*

Be sure to look for our special **Christmas/New Year's Timetable online**, in Grand Central, and at outlying ticket offices. Or download our free **Train Time App** on your **iPhone** or **Android** for train times.

All of us at Metro-North wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

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Winter is Coming...



...and you don't have to live in Westeros to know that means traveling may get rough.

That is why we present **Our Guide to Winter Weather Travel** to help you stay informed about any changes that inclement weather may have on your commute.

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When Jack Frost is Nipping at Your Nose...

...and everyone else's, you should know the following phone numbers and web addresses to get the latest on how other services you use may be affected:

MTA Metro-North Railroad Customer Information Center

511 www.mta.info/mnr
(from Connecticut, dial
1-877-690-5114)

MTA New York City Transit (Including MTA Bus)

511 www.mta.info/nyct

Westchester County Bee Line Bus

1-914-813-7777 transportation.westchestergov.com/

Transport of Rockland (TZ Express)

1-845-364-3333 www.rocklandgov.com/departments/public-transportation/

Putnam County Transit

1-845-878-7433 www.putnamcountyny.com/planningdept/putnam-transit-schedules/

Ulster-Poughkeepsie LINK

1-845-340-3333

ulstercountyny.gov/ucat/bus-schedules

Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART)

1-203-744-4070

www.hartransit.com

Dutchess County Loop

1-845-473-8424

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/MassTransit/19226.htm>

Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle

1-800-MAGIC17

www.leprechaunlines.com

LAZ Parking (Metro-North owned/operated facilities)

1-888-682-PARK

www.rrparking.com

New York Waterway

1-800-53-Ferry

www.nywaterway.com

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Before You Head North, Look East!

While you are heading up Madison Avenue to see the Holiday Tree at Rockefeller Center, make a quick stop at 42nd Street and look east.

You can see the tree every year. But for the first time in decades, you can now see the West side of Grand Central Terminal from the street.

That's because the buildings that used to obscure the front of the Terminal along Vanderbilt Ave., from 42nd to 43rd Streets, have been torn down to make way for a new commercial office building.

Standing on the corner of 42nd and Madison Ave., Frank, a visitor from Germany snapped a picture of the newly visible grandeur that is Grand Central. "I was here several times before and I couldn't see it, but now I can," he said smiling.

And just like everything in New York City, that will change again soon.

Once completed, the new 1,401-foot edifice will be taller than the Empire State Building.

And note this — amidst the nouveau style branding of other buildings going up in the city, the address will simply end at the two-worded iconic name "One Vanderbilt," without the complicating



appendage, "Avenue."

The subject of a [recent NY Times article](#), excavation to about four stories deep for One Vanderbilt is well underway, but don't expect to see the finished product until 2020.

Included in the plans for the skyscraper are access improvements to the [4](#) [5](#) and [6](#) subway trains under Grand Central.

So go west, and see it while you can!

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How the Grinch Stole Christmas

It was easy! Those little Whos in Whoville weren't keeping an eye on their stuff. So he just swept in and took it.

Don't make the same mistake. This holiday season:

- **Keep your property in sight at all times.** Never put anything of value in the overhead racks of our trains.
- **Make sure your handbag closes tightly** and carry it close to your body at all times.
- **Carry your wallet in your inside coat pocket**, or better still, your side pants pocket. *(We'd like to see somebody try and get in there!)*
- **At cash machines and ticket vending machines, make sure no one is looking over your shoulder** to get your bank card or Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- **Never leave your packages unattended.** Unattended packages are subject to search by MTA Police. This often results in delays for fellow commuters *(and an embarrassing situation for you)*.
- **Finally, if you see something, say something.** During the holidays, it is especially important that you remain vigilant. As always, you should inform a police officer or MTA employee if you see anything unusual, or call **888-NYC-SAFE (888-692-7233)**.



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Small Gauge, Big Fun

Remember to stop by the **Holiday Train Show at The Transit Museum in Grand Central** (located next to the Stationmaster's Office) through February 26, 2017. The show 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.



Quick Stocking Stuffers!

Let's say you need a last minute Christmas gift? *(It could happen!)*

May we suggest purchasing one of our Getaway packages. *(They are way better than fruitcake, and there are dozens of different "varieties" to choose from.)*

Here is just a partial list to choose from:

Them Bones, Them Bones:

You'll find more than just dinosaur bones in the **American Museum of Natural History's** 45 permanent exhibition halls featuring world-renowned dioramas, the 94-foot-long blue whale, dinosaur halls and the Rose Center for Earth and Space. **Our package gets you discount admission and rail fare** and a choice of a Giant Screen film or Hayden Planetarium Space Show.



Hoop Dreams:

Take us to see the **Westchester Knicks** at the Westchester County Center in White Plains and **save up to 25% on select tickets!** Get THIS CLOSE to seeing some of the country's best players BEFORE they hit the NBA.



Four Centuries, One Building:

With four centuries of history and art, the **New-York Historical Society** hits the spot for anyone craving an offbeat, *(and often surprising)*, bite of the city's culture. And it's easily digested in an hour or two. Quirky, smart, immersive and across the street from beautiful Central Park, it offers a rich taste of the city. **Our package gets you discount admission and rail fare.**

See all of our getaway packages, which are great not just during the holidays but all year-round.

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Safety Rule of the Issue

While walking in a winter wonderland, ice, snow, and sleet can create slippery situations during your commute.

- **Watch for icy conditions** in station parking lots, sidewalks and platforms.
- **Use stair handrails.** Water dripping from coats, boots, and umbrellas can ice up quickly, making stairs very slippery.
- **Watch for slippery conditions** even after you board your train. Snow, slush, and ice from boots make train floors slippery.
- **Avoid moving from car to car.** Icy conditions can exist in the areas between cars.

We bring you these tips because your safety, no matter how low the temperature goes, is always our first priority.

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Courtesy Corner

Just in time for the holidays, we present the "Commuter's Guide to Naughty Behavior." *(Because no one should ever get coal in their stocking.)*

Naughty things include:



- Putting your feet and bags on the seats.
- Leaving your garbage behind for the next person to deal with.
- Not letting people exit the train before trying to board.
- Talking loudly or using your cellphone on a Quiet Car.

Try doing the opposite of all the above to ensure that everyone has a nice holiday season while riding on Metro-North.

It's the courteous thing to do!

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