



## MAPLE LEAF ROUTE GUIDE



NEW YORK • SYRACUSE • ROCHESTER • BUFFALO • NIAGARA FALLS • TORONTO

*We hope you enjoy reading this guide and learning about points of interest along our route. It is written starting from the southern terminus of the train in New York and proceeds to points north and west, ending in Toronto. If you boarded in Toronto, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction if one is referenced.*

**AMTRAK STATIONS** are shown in all capital letters, as opposed to upper and lower case for towns and geographical areas through which the train travels but does not stop. The Amtrak System Timetable or the Maple Leaf panel card should be consulted for actual station times. While all service presented in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, routes and services are subject to change. Please contact Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com), or call your travel agent for the most current information.

Depart New York City and travel back in time as you pass dramatic geological features with origins 200 million years old. Feature attractions between the bombast of Broadway and the charm of Toronto include the magnificent Palisades; the Adirondack Mountains; the ruins of world-famous Bannerman's Castle; and the iconic Academy at West Point. The spectacular Mohawk Valley region of east central New York State is a natural passageway connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the interior of North America and played an influential historical role in human settlement, migration and transportation. The Finger Lakes region boasts a number of wineries and vineyards, skiing, golfing, maple sugaring and gorgeous fall foliage. Around the western shore of Lake Ontario and past the cities of Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara Falls, the scenery is non-stop and stunning all the way to Toronto. So sit back and relax on this beautiful run through the nation's most populous state constituting an ever-changing kaleidoscope of scenery and attractions.

*[The Maple Leaf owes its origins to a former Grand Trunk Western Railroad service between Chicago and Toronto on a route through Port Huron, Flint, Lansing, Battle Creek and South Bend, Indiana, currently plied by Amtrak Blue Water service. The name was later applied to a joint (and now defunct) Lehigh Valley Railroad and Canadian National overnight service between New York City and Toronto. Today's Amtrak service covers 544 miles and is operated jointly with VIA Rail Canada; Canadian crews take over the train between Niagara Falls and Toronto, but the cars and locomotive are supplied by Amtrak from end to end.]*



# WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome aboard the *Maple Leaf*. From the flash of Broadway to the dramatic and magnificent Palisades; the Adirondacks; the spectacular Mohawk Valley region; the Finger Lakes; the western shore of Lake Ontario and past its big cities, the scenery is non-stop and stunning all the way to Toronto. So sit back and relax on this run through our most populous state and on to Ontario, Canada -- an ever-changing kaleidoscope of scenery and attractions.

On board, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while viewing spectacular scenery. We are happy to have you aboard today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to call upon any Amtrak employee.

## THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Maple Leaf* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

**Conductor** is responsible for the On-Board Services Staff including ticket collection, passenger safety, and the safe operation of the train.

**Lounge Car Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Café Car.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

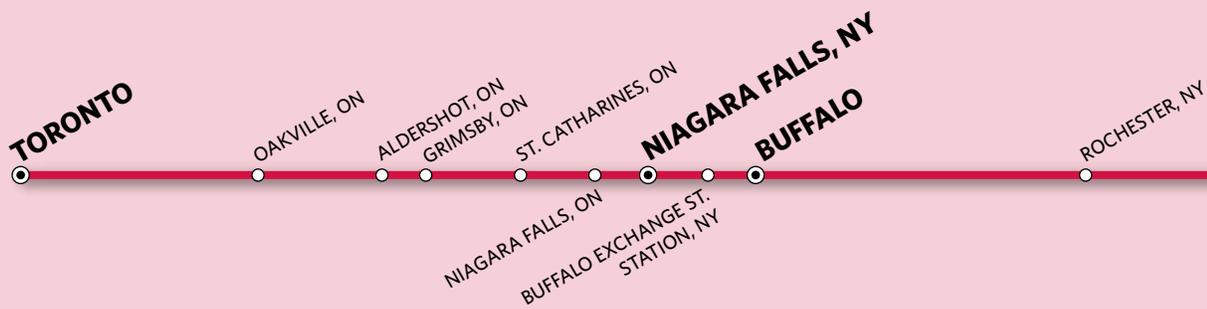
**Coach** seating provides a wide, reclining seat with leg rest, a folding tray table and overhead lights.

**Business class** seating provides a wide, reclining seat with leg rest, extra legroom, folding tray tables and overhead lights; a newspaper and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages are provided as well.

**Club-Dinette** offers sandwiches, snacks, beverages and sundries.

**HOST RAILROADS** are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Maple Leaf* operates between New York and Yonkers on Amtrak; between Yonkers and Poughkeepsie on Metro North Railroad; between Poughkeepsie and Niagara Falls on CSX; and between Niagara Falls and Toronto on Canadian National.

*Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and features are subject to change without notice. While gratuities are not required for services provided, it is an appreciated way to convey to an employee that he or she has made your trip more enjoyable.*



Continues  
on next page

**NEW YORK** is America's most populous city. So famous are its districts that Wall Street, Broadway and Madison Avenue are universally recognized shorthand for the industries located there. It is a global city, with worldwide influence over commerce, finance, culture, entertainment and the arts. It is also an important center for international affairs, hosting the United Nations headquarters. Unique among U.S. cities for its extensive use of mass transit, the density and diversity of its population, its reputation as a city that never sleeps is due to its 24-hour subways and the constant bustling of traffic and pedestrians. Birthplace of numerous cultural movements, its metropolitan population surpassed 10 million in the early 1930s, making it the first "megacity" in human history.

**Harlem River** The Harlem flows eight miles between the East River and the Hudson River, separating the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. The Harlem has served as a traditional rowing course for New York, used by university crews from Columbia, Fordham, New York and Manhattan College. Columbia's rowers have assisted New York Police Department investigations by sighting bodies in the water, as has been depicted in the TV series *Law & Order: We* cross the river at a point called Spuyten Duyvil -- Dutch for "spitting devil" -- that describes the tricky currents here where the Harlem River joins the Hudson River.

**YONKERS** is spread over hills rising from near sea level on the eastern bank of the Hudson River. Primarily a commuter city for workers into Manhattan, it is possessed of an excellent transportation infrastructure. Its attractions include Yonkers Raceway, the Philipse Manor Hall museum and archive, and many large shopping areas along Central Park Avenue. Its name derives from the Dutch word for "young gentleman," *Jonker*; this is how the recipient of the original land grant, Colen Donck, was known locally in 1645. In 1853, the Otis Elevator Company built the first such factory here. Today, a Kawasaki railcar assembly plant occupies its former facility, supplying several U.S. state and municipal systems with transit vehicles, including New York City. The first U.S. golf course was founded here in 1888. Steven Tyler of the rock band *Aerosmith* is a notable resident.

**Hastings-on-Hudson** was once a center of stone quarrying. Huge quantities of dolomite marble were used to produce the paving blocks used extensively in New York City's Central Park and in other cities. The town is now an upscale community, the current and former home of numerous high achievers in diverse fields of endeavor.

**Irvington** takes its name from the author Washington Irving, creator of *Rip Van Winkle*, *Ichabod Crane* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Nearby "Sunnyside" was his home and can be seen from the train near the station. The town's cool summer breezes and attractive setting

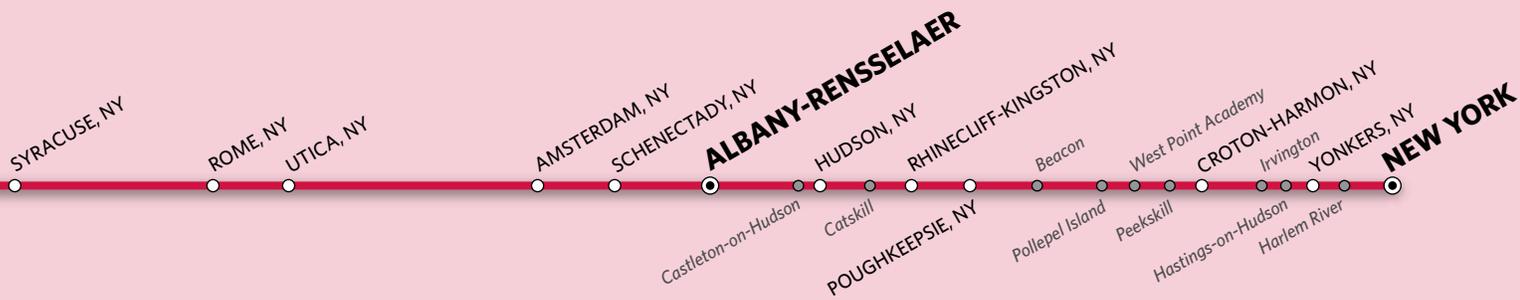
along the riverbank have attracted wealthy residents of New York City since the 1850s. It is today a community of the well-heeled which includes *Today Show* co-host Meredith Vieira, actress Debra Winger, and Reverend Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church. Its controversial mayoral election of 2005 resulted in the declaration of a winner by drawing lots after a tie vote could not be broken.

**CROTON-HARMON**, or Croton-on-Hudson, is the northern limit of the Hudson line railroad's electrification and a transfer point between local and express service. Historically, it thrived as a maintenance point for the former New York Central Railroad and its labor-intensive operations. Trains continuing north or west, including the flagship *20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited*, exchanged their electric locomotives here for a steam or diesel locomotive to continue their journeys. Nearby is General Electric's John F. Welch Leadership Center, which trains GE executives. Today, there is an ongoing effort to develop the riverfront area for recreational use. Many Croton residents commute into New York City's Grand Central Terminal some 33 miles south via Metro-North Railroad.

**Peekskill** was an early American industrial center and the first headquarters of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1992, the town was the site of a meteorite landing, recorded on film by 16 witnesses, which punched through the trunk of a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu. That car was later displayed on a world tour. The 1980s fictional TV sitcom *The Facts of Life* was set in Peekskill.

*West Point Academy*, marked by stone battlements on the western (opposite) shore of the river, is a U.S. Army post and service academy. Its first commander, Benedict Arnold, famously committed treason when he attempted to sell the fort to the British. West Point trains more Army officers than any other single institution. Occupying over 16,000 acres, it is one of the largest school campuses in the world. In addition to the typical academic buildings and sports facilities, it includes a ski slope and artillery range among its facilities. First occupied in 1778, it is the oldest continuously manned military post in the U.S. Bobby Knight, the winningest men's basketball coach in NCAA history, began his head coaching career at Army in the 1960s. Notable alumni include Presidents Grant and Eisenhower, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and Generals Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Omar Bradley and Douglas MacArthur.

**Pollepel Island** is the site of Bannerman's Castle, an abandoned military supply warehouse. Francis Bannerman purchased the island in 1900 to use as a storage site for his growing business. Construction of the castle began in 1901, with most of the building devoted to stores of army surplus. Today, the castle is property of the New York State Office



of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The island itself, mostly rock, contains 6.5 acres; its name is derived from the Dutch word for “wooden spoon.”

**Beacon** received its name from the signal fires that were set atop nearby Beacon Mountain to warn of approaching British troops during the Revolutionary War. During the 1800s, the town was known as the “Hat Making Capital of the U.S.” with some 50 factories devoted to hat manufacture. Its artistic and commercial rebirth came with the opening of one of the world’s largest contemporary art museums, a waterfront hotel and conference center. Across the river is its larger sister city, Newburgh.

**POUGHKEEPSIE** was home to the Smith Brothers’ famous cough drops until 1972. The area’s natural beauty and proximity to New York City prompted wealthy families like the Astors and Vanderbilts to build palatial weekend homes nearby. The city was an early center for whale rendering, and industry flourished through shipping, hatteries and breweries – some owned by Matthew Vassar, founder of Vassar College here. Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph and Morse code, made this his home for 25 years.

**RHINECLIFF-KINGSTON** The hamlet of Rhinecliff in the town of Rhinebeck encompasses the largest district of National Historic Landmark designation in the country. Kingston’s downtown area, known as “the Rondout,” is considered one of the nation’s best places for artists. It was also the first capital of New York between 1777 and 1797. Kingston once shaped and shipped most of the “bluestone” used to build the sidewalks of New York City. The Amtrak station here was built by the former New York Central Railroad in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and hosts several Amtrak trains serving nearby Poughkeepsie as well as Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls and New York City. Kingston may be accessed by taxicab from the station.

**Catskill** across the Hudson River was once a stopover for vacationers on their way to the Catskill Mountain resorts. The area was purchased from natives in 1678 and the town was established in 1788. The former undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion “Iron” Mike Tyson once trained at the Catskill gym owned by the legendary trainer Cus D’Amato, who took the young fighter out of reform school and welcomed him into his family. Across the river on the right is the Saugerties Lighthouse, decommissioned in 1954 as automation made light keepers obsolete. It is today a unique bed and breakfast.

**HUDSON** is named for the adjacent river and its discoverer and explorer, Henry Hudson. Its 7,000 residents include some 500 inmates at the Hudson Correctional Facility. Famous natives of Hudson include

General William Jenkins Worth, whose leading role in the U.S. victory over Mexico in the Mexican-American War made permanent the liberation of Texas. The city of Ft. Worth is named for him. Today, Hudson’s main thoroughfare, Warren Street, hosts a lively antiques market of almost seventy shops. Several television shows have been filmed here, including *The Wonder Years*.

**Castleton-on-Hudson** is a largely residential suburb of Hudson. Its name was derived from Henry Hudson’s experience during exploration of his namesake river, whereupon he encountered a Native American food storehouse so large it was considered a castle.

**ALBANY-RENSELAER** Albany is the capital of the State of New York. Its capitol building is one of only ten state capitol buildings in the U.S. without a dome. The English acquired the original site from the Dutch in 1664 and named it in honor of James II, Duke of Albany. It is the fourth oldest city and the second oldest state capital in the U.S. In 1754, Benjamin Franklin presented his “Albany Plan of Union” to the Albany Congress, the first formal proposal to unite the colonies. Although never adopted, it proved to be an important precursor to the U.S. Constitution.

In the midtown section, the Empire State Plaza contains the tallest building in the state outside of New York City, the Erastus Corning Tower. The Plaza is based on the National Congress complex in Brazil’s capital city, Brasilia. The local economy revolves around state government and nanotechnology. Unlike most of the nation, Albany’s “last call for alcohol” in the bars is 4:00 a.m. Albany public schools spend \$9,227 per student, well above the U.S. average of \$6,068. Famous natives of Albany include Andy Rooney, the humorist and commentator famous for his part on the CBS news program *60 Minutes*.

The Amtrak station is located in **Rensselaer**, 1.5 miles from Albany across the Hudson River. The structure dates from 2002, featuring a coffee shop, newsstand and post office. One of the busiest stations in the Amtrak system, it serves northeastern routes outside of the Northeast Corridor “spine.” They include this train, the *Adirondack*, serving Montreal and New York City; *Empire Service* between either Albany-Rensselaer or Buffalo and New York City; the *Ethan Allen Express* serving Rutland Vermont and New York City; and the *Maple Leaf* serving Toronto and New York City. Here, also, the Boston and New York City branches of the *Lake Shore Limited* to and from Chicago meet.

**SCHENECTADY** is the ninth largest city in New York State. It became the headquarters of the General Electric Company in 1892 after Thomas Edison had moved his Edison Machine Works here. The company generated the first television broadcasts in the U.S. in Schenectady

in 1928. Union College is the oldest planned campus in the country. Former President Jimmy Carter began graduate studies in nuclear physics at Union College in 1953. Schenectady is the former home of the American Locomotive Company, ALCO, which once supplied many major U.S. railroads with motive power.

**AMSTERDAM** was settled in 1710 by the Dutch and named after the city in the Netherlands in 1803. A dam on the nearby Chuctenuda River led to manufacturing in the area, primarily carpets, textiles and pearl buttons. The former National Guard Armory is now a bed and breakfast listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has appeared in several movie productions. Amsterdam is also home to the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. Notable Amsterdams include Issur Danielovitch, born here in 1916, perhaps better known as actor Kirk Douglas.

**UTICA** is situated in the Mohawk Valley and was named for the ancient Carthaginian city in Tunisia. It boasts an extensive park system and is the focus of regional economic revitalization efforts in the area of arts and entertainment. It is also famous for its plethora of Italian-American restaurants, some of which are generations old. Dick Clark began his career in the mailroom of radio station WRUN in Utica. Notable Uticans include actress Annette Funicello, former "Mouseketeer" on the Mickey Mouse Club television show.

**ROME** is the home of one very notable resident: Francis Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance. Named after the Eternal City in Italy, Rome is in the heart of the region made famous by James Fenimore Cooper in a collection of novels called the *Leatherstocking Tales*. On July 4, 1817, construction began on the Erie Canal here, eventually to link the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. The oldest manufacturing company in the U.S., Revere Copper Products, Inc., was founded here, as was America's first cheese factory. Amtrak President Joseph Boardman was raised on a dairy farm nearby.

**SYRACUSE**, named after a city on the east coast of Sicily, is the economic and educational hub of Central New York. Home to the Great New York State Fair and Syracuse University, the city boasts more snowfall than any other large U.S. city, with an annual average of 115.6 in. Its top employers are in the education and service industries. Salt was discovered nearby in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, giving rise to its early nickname of "Salt City." The Syracuse *Post-Standard*, its morning daily, calls itself "America's Most Colorful Newspaper" with good reason: almost every page contains color. Actors Richard Gere and Tom Cruise hail from Syracuse – as did the late Rod Serling, creator of the popular and groundbreaking science fiction television anthology *Twilight Zone* in 1959.

**ROCHESTER** is ranked as one of America's top cities for quality of life. By 1838, it was the largest flour-producing city in the U.S. and, having doubled its population in only ten years, it became America's first "boomtown." It was also known for being a center of men's fashions and home to a large garment industry. It is now the site of a number of Fortune 1000 companies, including Eastman Kodak and the Xerox Corporation, the latter founded here in 1906. National frozen food processor Birds Eye is headquartered in suburban Rochester, and the city is the birthplace of the Wegmans Grocery store chain. It hosts a number of festivals from early spring throughout the summer. Between 1927 and 1957, Rochester had a light rail underground transit system, the smallest city in the world to have such. Public debate is underway concerning the costs of restoring the light rail system versus filling or otherwise utilizing the underground tunnels it formerly occupied.

**BUFFALO** occupies the eastern shore of Lake Erie at the head of the Niagara River. The name is thought to be derived from the French phrase *beau flueve*, or beautiful river. Its radial street and grid system is one of only three such plans in the U.S. Once home to the largest

steel-making producer in the world, it is today experiencing new development and renovations downtown. After a collision between a bicyclist and a car on a rainy night in 1917, the car's driver, a Buffalo theatre owner, formed the Tri-Continental Corporation. It soon introduced the first windshield wiper, and now trades as Trico Products. And the popular dish known currently as Buffalo Wings was, according to legend, first prepared in the Anchor Bar on Main St. downtown in 1964 by its owner as a snack for her college-aged son and his friends who had arrived one evening hungry, late and unannounced. Famous Buffalonians include CNN journalist Wolf Blitzer, the pop band Goo Goo Dolls, and the late Amanda Blake – better known as "Miss Kitty" at the Long Branch Saloon for 19 years on the longest-running television series drama in history, CBS' *Gunsmoke*.

**BUFFALO EXCHANGE ST. STATION** was opened in 1952 to serve some 21 former New York Central and Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway trains daily. Within ten years, New York Central ceased passenger service and the station was closed. Amtrak reinstated service here in 1977.

**NIAGARA FALLS (New York)** was incorporated in 1892 and built around factories that utilized falling water for energy. The downtown area borders a park that overlooks American, Horseshoe and Bridal Veil Falls. The city is visited by almost ten million people annually and is one of the top ten tourist destinations in the U.S. In 2004, the Seneca Nation of Indians opened the Seneca Niagara Casino in the former Niagara Falls Conventional and Civic Center. Notable natives include singer April Stevens who, along with her brother Nino Tempo, recorded the No. 1 Billboard Hit *Deep Purple* in 1963 and won the Grammy Award for best rock and roll recording in 1964.

#### United States/Canadian Border

**NIAGARA FALLS (Ontario)** is known as the self-proclaimed Honeymoon Capital of the World. It benefits from the superior view of American and Horseshoe Falls that it can offer tourists from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The city has also developed numerous tourist attractions that attract millions annually. The late 1990s witnessed an economic boom as legal wagering was introduced into the local economy with the opening of Casino Niagara and, later, the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort. Its Historic Niagara section brought art galleries, boutiques and bistros. Niagara's Fury is a representation of how the Falls were created, simulating an ice age environment. One well-known attraction is the Maid of the Mist boat ride.

**ST. CATHARINES (Ontario)** lies 12 miles inland from the international boundary between Canada and the U.S. It is known as the "Garden City" for its 1,000 acres of meticulously groomed parks and gardens. General Motors of Canada operates two plants in the city. Because the city lies on a main telecommunications backbone between the two countries, it houses a large number of call centers. Loyalists to the English Crown settled St. Catharines in the 1780s. It was both the first and the last location in the world to have a working interurban electric streetcar route. A satellite campus of Niagara College brought Canada its first Teaching Winery. The city is a hotbed for Lacrosse with a long history of the sport.

**GRIMSBY (Ontario)** is bounded by Lake Ontario and the Niagara escarpment. With a large number of wineries and distilleries in the area, the town serves as the starting point for touring the Niagara wine region. Conferring perhaps even greater status is Grimsby's identity as birthplace of Del Lord, director of *The Three Stooges* short subject films between 1935 and 1944, who is credited with developing the unique comedy style of the "boys" (nyuk nyuk nyuk).

**ALDRESHOT (Ontario)** is an unincorporated community of Burlington, served at the GO Station by bus, Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada to Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Windsor.

**OAKVILLE (Ontario)** was surveyed as the locale for a military road in 1793. After the building of the Grand Trunk Railway through town, it became industrialized with the coming of oil refineries and Ford Motor Company's Canadian headquarters and plant. It is among the most affluent municipalities in the country. Its many festivals include the Waterfront, Love of the Arts and Jazz. The arts are alive and well at the Centre for Performing Arts, CommUnity Art Space and Oakville Galleries.

**TORONTO (Ontario)** is one of the world's most diverse cities, with some 49 percent of its population born outside of Canada. Considered a global city, it is also the most populous city in Canada, the provincial capital of Ontario and one of the top financial centers in the world. It is known for its low crime rate, clean environment, high standard of living and consistent ranking as one of the world's most livable cities. The name Toronto is thought to be derived from the Iroquois word meaning "place where trees stand in the water," the Huron tribes occupying the site in the 14<sup>th</sup> century having planted saplings in Lake Simcoe to corral fish. By the 1860s, Toronto had become the largest alcohol distillation

center in North America. Today, the Distillery District contains the largest and best-preserved collection of Victorian industrial architecture on the North American continent. Architecturally, the city displays a mix of periods and styles. The CN Tower defines the skyline and, at 1,815 ft., was the world's tallest freestanding structure for 30 years, until 2007, when it was displaced by the Burj Dubai.

Its Financial District contains the largest cluster of skyscrapers in Canada. Its diverse array of public spaces includes the Nathan Phillips Square, which forms the entrance to City Hall. Another major local industry is domestic and foreign film and television production; the Toronto International Film Festival is one of the film industry's most important annual events. Tourists can take in the Royal Ontario Museum of world culture and natural history; the Toronto Zoo, one of the world's largest; or the Canadian National Exhibition, oldest annual fair in the world each August/September. Toronto Eaton Centre is one of North America's top shopping destinations. The city represents in major sports, including hockey, baseball, basketball, football, soccer and lacrosse. It is Canada's largest media market and a center for publishing, telecommunications, information technology as well as an important wholesale and distribution point for the industrial sector.

**Amtrak Guest Rewards®. Free travel fast.**

When you're a member of Amtrak Guest Rewards®, you're on the fast track to good things. You're taking part in exclusive promotions. You're earning your way to rewards like free Amtrak travel, hotel stays, car rentals and more. So join the program that is your express route to free travel. Enroll now at [AmtrakGuestRewards.com](http://AmtrakGuestRewards.com) or call 1-800-307-5000.

**Amtrak Vacations®**

With Amtrak Vacations, you can travel to a wide variety of exciting destinations. Just one call will take care of all the details, from reservations and tickets to hotels, sightseeing, car rentals and more. Select one of our popular vacation packages or create your own itinerary. For reservations, information and to request your free Amtrak Vacations brochure, call 1-800-AMTRAK-2.

**Amtrak Children's Activity Book**

The Children's Activity Book is an exclusively designed, 24-page fun-filled Amtrak activity book for our young travelers. The book is available for sale in the Lounge Car. The activities, games and stories are for children ages 6-11.

**Amtrak Gift Certificates**

Give the gift of travel. Amtrak gift certificates are available in denominations of \$50 to \$1,000 and are instantly redeemable for Amtrak travel. Purchasing online is easy. Just visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com).

**Amtrak Store**

Amtrak has an online store filled with branded merchandise! You'll find everything from bears to hats, jackets, shirts and much more. Visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) and click the Amtrak Store icon at the bottom of the page.

Amtrak, Adirondack, Amtrak Guest Rewards, Amtrak Vacations, Empire Service, Ethan Allen Express, Lake Shore Limited and Maple Leaf are registered service marks of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

© National Railroad Passenger Corporation 11/09

