

CAROLINAS ASSOCIATION FOR PASSENGER TRAINS (“CAPT”)

WHY YOU SHOULD RIDE AN AMTRAK TRAIN FROM BURLINGTON, NC

Burlington is served by 8 Amtrak passenger trains every day of the year – four southbound and four northbound. All four southbound trains go as far as Charlotte with stops at Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis. All four northbound trains can take you to Raleigh with stops at Durham and Cary. Three of the northbound trains terminate in Raleigh; the fourth continues through eastern North Carolina, Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, eventually terminating in New York City.

Travel within North Carolina

From Burlington, you can ride the train to any of eight other NC cities to visit friends or family or sightsee (or even work) and yet return to Burlington the same day. Note that all trains require reservations which can be made by going to www.ncbytrain.org and clicking on the **Tickets** button.

Travel Outside of North Carolina

The one daily northbound train that goes as far as New York City (“**CAROLINIAN**”) departs Burlington at 8:46 am and makes additional North Carolina stops in Durham, Cary, Raleigh, Selma, Wilson and Rocky Mount. It then stops in Virginia in Petersburg, Richmond, Fredericksburg, Quantico and Alexandria, arriving in Washington, DC at 4:30 pm. After departing Washington, DC, the train stops in Baltimore MD, Wilmington DE, Philadelphia PA, Trenton and Newark NJ, before arriving in New York City at 8:38 pm. Precise arrival times at all cities mentioned are to be found at www.ncbytrain.org by clicking on the **Schedules** button. Sample ticket costs are also shown; tickets are discounted for children and seniors.

Comfort of Train Travel

When deciding between driving and riding a train, you should remember that driving requires total concentration on the road ahead and all the vehicles around

you (unless you are the passenger). In contrast, riding a train gives you an opportunity to relax in a comfortable seat, read a book, watch a movie or take a nap. You may even leave your seat to stretch your legs. A restroom is as close as the end of the coach in which you're riding, and takeout meals may be purchased from the Café Car.

The Perfect Way to Travel

Once you have ridden an Amtrak passenger train in North Carolina, it will change the way you think about how you make future medium- and long-distance trips. Seniors especially enjoy riding the train as an alternative to driving or being driven, and parents with young children enjoy the train for the freedom of movement it offers the children. While train travel can take longer than driving, the time spent is much more enjoyable and productive. For medium-length trips of up to 500 miles, train travel is very competitive to air travel. By boarding the train in Burlington you do not have to drive an hour or longer to the closest airport and arrive 2 hours in advance of the flight.

Help is Available

If you still need help figuring out how to make your first Amtrak train trip, please send an email with your questions to ncbytrain@gmail.com. We will promptly answer your questions, although you must make your own travel arrangements (CAPT is not a travel agency.) This help is offered free of charge.

The Carolinas Association for Passenger Trains (CAPT) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that promotes present and future passenger rail services for North Carolina and South Carolina. The author of this article is David Robinson, North Carolina Vice President, who lives in Raleigh. Dr. Robinson also acts as Director of North Carolina On Track, which is an initiative of CAPT to promote passenger rail travel in North Carolina.