

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AMTRAK *HEARTLAND FLYER* AND GUTHRIE PARTNER FOR ROUND TRIPS TO TERRITORIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

CHICAGO and OKLAHOMA CITY – Visitors to historic downtown Guthrie, Oklahoma, will step back into the Victorian era during the annual Territorial Christmas Celebration from November 23 through December 23 and the Amtrak *Heartland Flyer* train will provide round-trip service to Guthrie during one of the weekends.

The special event train is added to this year's celebration through a partnership between Amtrak and the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, together with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and BNSF Railway.

On the evenings of December 10, 11 and 12, the northbound *Heartland Flyer* (Train 822) will depart Fort Worth, Texas, on its normal schedule and continue north to Guthrie after stopping in Oklahoma City. On the mornings of December 11, 12 and 13, the southbound *Heartland Flyer* will originate in Guthrie and stop in Oklahoma City, before operating normally through central Oklahoma and into Texas.

The additional fare for the Oklahoma City to Guthrie portion is \$7 each way, making the fare as low as \$27 each way between Fort Worth and Guthrie, \$20 each way from Ardmore, Okla., to Guthrie and \$9 each way from Norman, Okla., to Guthrie (schedule attached). Visit Amtrak.com for additional information or to book your trip.

Amtrak passengers arriving in Guthrie will be greeted with a Christmas-themed party complete with music and local residents dressed in period attire. Transportation will be provided between the historic Guthrie train depot and nearby inns and hotels.

“We are especially excited that Amtrak is allowing the *Heartland Flyer* to travel a little further north so visitors throughout Texas and Oklahoma can enjoy the wonder and history of

our Territorial Christmas Celebration,” Guthrie Chamber of Commerce President Mary Coffin said.

Visitors can enjoy historic museums, unique shopping and local restaurants, as well as Territorial Christmas events including candlelight trolley rides, carolers, peanut vendors and more than 60 decorated store windows depicting Victorian Guthrie.

The town transforms from the 21st Century to the 19th Century and there will also be a variety of entertainment including the popular Pollard Theatre presentation of *A Territorial Christmas Carol: An Oklahoma Tradition*, which continues to play to sold-out houses into its twenty-second year. Adapted by Oklahoma playwright, Stephen P. Scott, this version of Charles Dickens' classic tale of redemption and brotherly love is set in the days of the Oklahoma Land Run. Theatre tickets range in price from \$15-22 and should be purchased online in advance at www.thepollard.org or by calling (405) 282-2800.

Other Territorial Christmas celebration activities include the Territorial Homes Tour on December 12, Wassail Nights on December 12 & 19 at the Chamber of Commerce, the Journey to Bethlehem, a depiction of the journey taken by Mary and Joseph with live actors and animals, and various concerts at the Double Stop Fiddle Shop.

The Amtrak *Heartland Flyer* celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The daily service operates with funding from ODOT, the Texas Department of Transportation and support by the Heartland Flyer Coalition, representing the communities along the 206-mile route.

About Amtrak

As the nation's intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it the second-best year in the company's history. With 21,000-route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day - at speeds up to 150 mph - to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the operator of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for four commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

About Oklahoma Department of Transportation

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma. For more information, visit www.okladot.state.ok.us.

About Guthrie

Born of the Land Run in 1889, Guthrie became a city of over 10,000 people in a single day. Built to Victorian elegance, the magnificent architecture of Oklahoma's first State Capital still

stands today as a National Historic Landmark. For more information about the Territorial Christmas Celebration please contact the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce at (405) 282-1947; (800) 299-1889 or visit www.guthrieok.com.

**Amtrak *Heartland Flyer* northbound
(Train 822) December 10, 11 & 12, 2009**

5:25 p.m. Depart Fort Worth
6:42 p.m. Depart Gainesville
7:23 p.m. Depart Ardmore
8:12 p.m. Depart Pauls Valley
8:38 p.m. Depart Purcell
8:55 p.m. Depart Norman
9:39 p.m. Depart Oklahoma City
10:55 p.m. Arrive Guthrie, OK

**Amtrak *Heartland Flyer* southbound
(Train 821) December 11, 12 & 13, 2009**

7:15 a.m. Depart Guthrie
8:25 a.m. Depart Oklahoma City
8:49 a.m. Depart Norman
9:06 a.m. Depart Purcell
9:31 a.m. Depart Pauls Valley
10:23 a.m. Depart Ardmore
11:05 p.m. Depart Gainesville
12:39 p.m. Arrive Fort Worth

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