Media Room

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner Offers Affordable, Flexible Travel for Thanksgiving 2026

Travelers encouraged to book early, ride their selected train and consider Business Class for guaranteed seating during the busy holiday period

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 18, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- While getting to the Thanksgiving table is always the ultimate goal, the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner can make the journey part of your holiday memory.

As Southern Californians prepare for Thanksgiving travel, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner offers a convenient alternative to driving, helping passengers avoid holiday highway traffic and enjoy a more relaxing journey. With flexible Coach travel, guaranteed seating in Business Class and fares that have remained unchanged, Pacific Surfliner provides a practical option for travelers looking to manage holiday expenses.

"The holidays are about spending time with the people who matter most, and getting there should be memorable and affordable," said Jason Jewell, Managing Director of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. "With travel costs top of mind for many families, the Pacific Surfliner offers an affordable, comfortable alternative to driving during one of the busiest travel periods of the year."

Connecting communities across San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, Pacific Surfliner offers a comfortable way to visit loved ones, enjoy a holiday getaway or explore destinations throughout Southern California.

With trains expected to be busy around Thanksgiving, passengers are encouraged to purchase tickets early, plan ahead and ride the train selected when booking.

Book Early and Plan to Travel on Your Scheduled Train
Pacific Surfliner will not implement a fully reserved Coach service for Thanksgiving 2026, preserving flexibility for travelers whose holiday plans may change.

However, space is limited during busy travel periods, and passengers are strongly encouraged to ride their scheduled train to help manage crowding and support a more comfortable experience for everyone.

Travelers who want greater certainty about seating can upgrade to Business Class, which includes a guaranteed seat. Business Class tickets should be purchased early, particularly for popular holiday departures.

A Cost-Conscious Alternative to Holiday Driving
As travelers navigate the costs of gasoline, parking and other holiday expenses, Pacific Surfliner offers an alternative to spending hours behind the wheel.

With fares that have remained unchanged, passengers can plan their journeys with greater confidence while enjoying spacious seating, complimentary Wi-Fi, power outlets and scenic views along the route.

Important Thanksgiving Travel Updates
Passengers should review the following service information before traveling:

- The Rail 2 Rail and Codeshare programs will be suspended from November 25 through November 30, 2026.
- During this period, Metrolink and COASTER passes will not be accepted for travel on Pacific Surfliner trains. Passengers must purchase an Amtrak ticket.

Checked Baggage Service: November 20–30, 2026
As always, Pacific Surfliner's baggage policy allows for one personal item and up to two carry-on bags for free. But for those who plan to bring a little bit more, checked baggage service will be available from November 20 through November 30, 2026, at select staffed stations.

Passengers may check up to four bags:

- The first two checked bags are free.
- Up to two additional checked bags are permitted for $20 each.

Travelers should confirm checked baggage availability at their departure and arrival stations before traveling.

Business Class Seating
Business Class offers a guaranteed seat for travelers seeking additional peace of mind during the busy Thanksgiving period. Availability may be limited, so advance booking is encouraged.

Coach Travel
Coach travel remains unreserved. Passengers are strongly encouraged to ride their selected train to help minimize overcrowding during peak travel periods.

Make the Most of Your Thanksgiving Journey
Whether traveling to a family gathering, enjoying a long weekend or exploring Southern California's coastal communities, Pacific Surfliner offers a convenient way to travel without the stress of holiday highway traffic.

Passengers can find the latest Thanksgiving travel advisories, service information and planning tips at PacificSurfliner.com/Holiday.

Tickets and schedules are available at PacificSurfliner.com.

About the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
The Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency is a joint powers authority overseeing management of the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner service. Comprised of rail owners, operators and planning agencies along the 351-mile LOSSAN rail corridor, the agency works to improve passenger rail ridership, revenue, on-time performance, operational flexibility and safety throughout its service area. The Orange County Transportation Authority provides administrative support to the LOSSAN Agency and its board. For more information, visit LOSSAN.org.

About the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner
The Pacific Surfliner travels along a 351-mile coastal rail route through San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, serving 29 stations. It is the busiest state-supported intercity passenger rail route in the United States. To learn more and plan a trip, visit PacificSurfliner.com.

SOURCE Amtrak® Pacific Surfliner

For further information: CONTACTS: FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jason Jewell, LOSSAN Agency November 18, 2026, jjewell@octa.net; Media Contact: Taylor Stewart, pacificsurfliner@theabbiagency.com

---

Additional assets available online: Photos (1)

https://news.pacificsurfliner.com/2026-11-18-Amtrak-Pacific-Surfliner-Offers-Affordable,-Flexible-Travel-for-Thanksgiving-2026