



LAKE SHORE LIMITED ROUTE GUIDE



CHICAGO • CLEVELAND • ALBANY • NEW YORK/BOSTON

We hope you enjoy reading this guide and learning about points of interest along our route. It is written starting from the western terminus of the train in Chicago and proceeds to points east, splitting in Albany, New York to either New York City or Boston. If you boarded in either New York City or Boston, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction 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 Lake Shore Limited 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, or call your travel agent for the most current information.

The Lake Shore Limited follows some of the nation's most beautiful shorelines, combining scenic beauty with interesting history. Traversing the shores of Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, the Erie Canal, the Mohawk River, the Finger Lakes and the Berkshires, it splits in Albany offering alternate routes to either Boston or New York. The variety of landscapes and waterways that make this trip so beautiful and memorable punctuate the skylines of either city at journey's end within blocks of the Atlantic Ocean.

[The Lake Shore Limited is the descendent of the former New York Central Railroad's train of the same name, along with the 20th Century Limited that plied the same route, albeit with all-Pullman (sleeping car) service. Making its first run in 1902 out of New York's Grand Central Station, the train ran for almost 70 years. So rich and famous were its patrons that Paparazzi would often wait at its terminus with the expectation that somebody in the public eye would step off of the train – perhaps James Cagney or William Randolph Hearst. The most famous incarnation of the train was the new streamlined version designed by Henry Dreyfuss that debuted in 1938. However, "cowled" steam locomotives soon gave way to diesel power at the conclusion of World War II. After the failure in 1970 of the merged New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn Central, Amtrak was formed to take over passenger service. On October 31, 1975, the Lake Shore Limited returned to the route with service that included both coach and sleeping cars, more closely aligned with its namesake than with the Century.]



WELCOME ABOARD



Mohawk River

Welcome aboard the *Lake Shore Limited*®! The *Lake Shore Limited* traverses the shores of Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, the Erie Canal, the Mohawk River, the Finger Lakes and the Berkshires, following some of the nation's most beautiful shorelines. On board, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while witnessing unique scenery. We are happy to have you onboard 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 on any Amtrak employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

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

Conductor is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff as well as ticket collection, the safety of passengers and the safe operation of the train.

Lead Service Attendant is responsible for the operation of the Dining car and Dining car staff.

Lounge Car Attendant is responsible for the operation of the Lounge/Café car.

Sleeping Car Attendant is responsible for providing all service for passengers ticketed in Sleeping car accommodations, including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey. They can also assist with meal reservations or arrange for your meal to be served in the privacy and comfort of your accommodation.

Coach Attendant is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in coach. This includes seat assignment, pillow service, luggage service and assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Viewliner Sleeping accommodations provide a range of private rooms with amenities for day and night use. From roomettes to bedrooms with lavatory and shower, Sleeping car accommodations will suit any need and can be described in more detail by any member of the crew. Please ask to speak to the Conductor regarding the availability of rooms. Amtrak Club Acela® is available in New York.

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with leg rest, folding tray table and overhead lights. Free pillow service is also available.

Dining service offers casual complete meal and appetizer service with an all-day menu between New York and Chicago; between Albany and Boston, Sleeping car passengers will receive complimentary boxed meal service.

Lounge offers sandwich, snack and beverage service; between New York and Albany service is combined with Dining car.

HOST RAILROADS are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Lake Shore Limited* travels New York-Yonkers – Amtrak; Yonkers-Poughkeepsie – Metro North Railroad (MNR); Boston-Poughkeepsie-Cleveland – CSX; Cleveland-Chicago – Norfolk Southern (NS).

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.



CHICAGO As we pull out of the covered platforms in the station, look left for an impressive view of the city skyline. Among its magnificent structures are the Sears Tower, Daley Center and John Hancock Building. Soon, again on the left, is Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox. We now cross the South Branch of the Chicago River, famous for its backwards flow, and where ships ply Great Lakes ports along the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Sanitary engineers reversed its flow in the early 1900s to prevent epidemics. As we cross the Rock Island Railroad at Englewood, imagine the intense rivalry between the *Twentieth Century* and *Broadway Limited* trains as they raced one another to New York decades ago. Of note is the New Regal Theater, originally an “atmospheric” motion picture palace where the audience sat in an imaginary courtyard under the stars. Today, it is a showcase for live entertainment. The cemetery on the left is where Harold Washington, the city’s first African American mayor, is buried.

Vibrant and energetic, Chicago is the industrial core of the Midwest and a major transportation hub. In the heart of America’s agriculture belt, it is a leading distributor of farm products. Its many regional food specialties reflect the city’s ethnic and working class roots. Its spirit is also exemplified in its unique architecture; here is where the word “skyscraper” originated in 1885. The arts and sciences are also alive here, with an abundance of world-renowned theaters and museums. Most Amtrak long-distance trains originate or terminate here.

Illinois/Indiana State Line

Roby Just east, power lines and grain elevators dominate the skyline of this area. The Indiana “Skyway” Toll Road, I-90, is on the right.

HAMMOND-WHITING As we pass through town, consider one of its early residents, Alvah Curtis Roebuck, a farm boy. Moving to Chicago, he started a mail order company with Richard Sears -- and thus began Sears, Roebuck and Co. The town is home to Purdue University. It boasts of one of the country’s first professional football teams in the 1920s. Notable natives include the original “Doublemint Twins” of the famous chewing gum advertisements. A Pullman-Standard plant here produced railroad passenger cars between 1929 and 1981, many of them for Amtrak in the 1970s. In 1911, the “Betzmobile” was introduced here to great fanfare. Having cars built in Chicago and unable to meet demand without a plant of its own, the firm quickly succumbed when buyers shopped elsewhere.

Gary was planned by U.S. Steel in 1906. Many famous personalities grew up in the shadow of its furnaces, including the entertainers of the famous Jackson family, actor Karl Malden and astronaut Frank Borman.

LaPorte Here, between 1896 and 1897, French engineer Octave Chanute launched the Age of Flight with manned glider excursions

on the high dunes that ring the shores of Lake Michigan. His designs were the basis for aviation projects around the world – including a motorized version built by the Wright Brothers in 1903.

SOUTH BEND To many, this city is synonymous with Notre Dame, both the university and the football team. Its famous golden dome arises in the distance on the left. To others, it is virtually defined by the Studebaker Corporation, which started making wagons here in 1852, came to prominence, and finally ceased auto making here in 1963. Its museum is a collection of vehicles from its 150-year history of production.

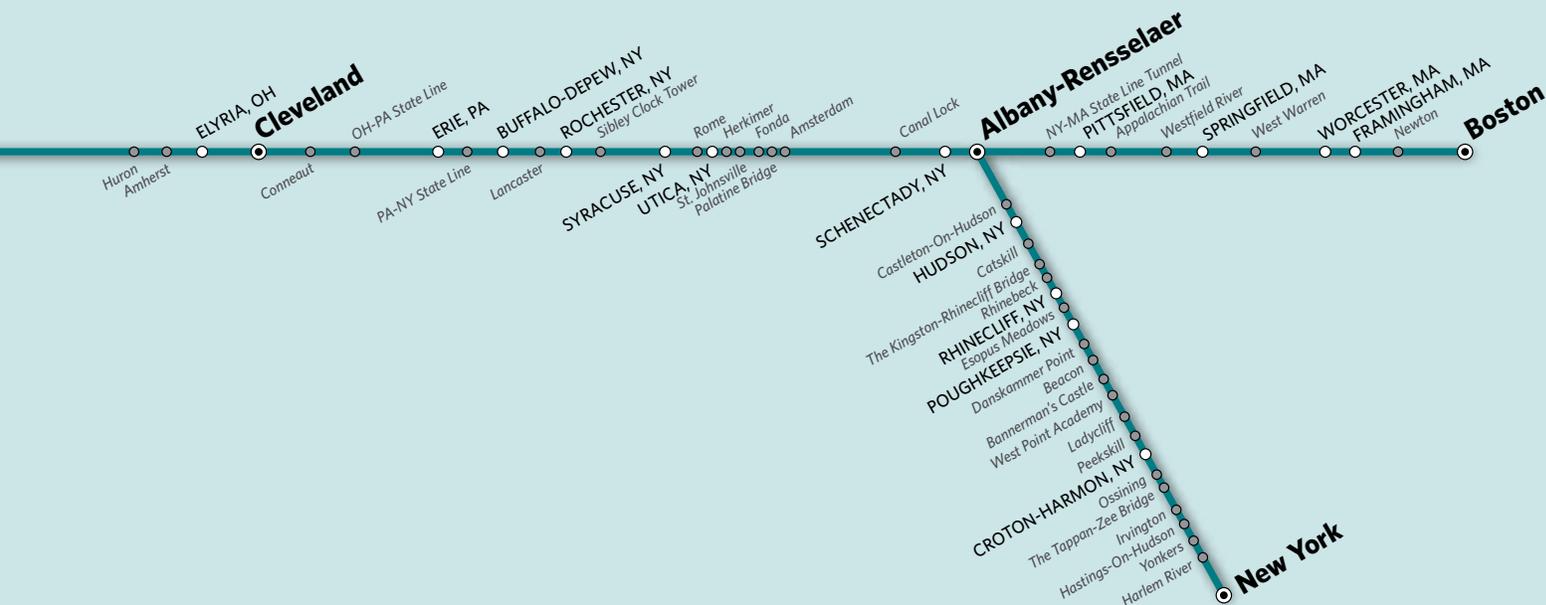
NOTE: The time change occurs here during the fall. When traveling eastbound between October and April, set your watch one hour ahead before arrival. When traveling westbound, set your watch one hour back departing South Bend.

ELKHART When *Seventy-Six Trombones Come a Marchin’* In -- it has to be Elkhart, a town people say was the inspiration for Broadway’s hit, “The Music Man.” For many years, it was known as the Brass Musical Instrument Capital. Charles Conn made the first U.S. produced cornet here. Miles Laboratories, original maker of Alka-Seltzer, was founded in Elkhart. Today, it is known as the “Mobile Home Capital” due to its large RV manufacturing base, and it hosts one of the country’s premier jazz events each June.

WATERLOO is our last stop in the Hoosier State. Founded in 1856, the town was named for its co-founder, Miles Waterman. Some wanted the town to be named Waterman, but he declined this honor and supported Waterloo, a popular name not only in this area but across the U.S.; there are 30 such towns in 26 states currently in existence. The American version of Waterloo is most likely derived from the town of the same name in Belgium where Napoleon’s army was defeated. The phrase “met his waterloo” originated from this event, meaning a defeat, ruin, collapse or downfall.

NOTE: The change to daylight savings time occurs here in the spring. When traveling eastbound between April and October, set your watch one hour ahead after departing Waterloo. When traveling westbound, set your watch back one hour before arriving in Waterloo.

Bryan Did you ever play with an “Etch A Sketch®” toy as a child? If so, you’ve got a connection to this, the home of its maker, the Ohio Art Company. Also delighting children is the world’s largest maker of candy canes and lollipops, the Spangler Company. Some of the town’s many artesian wells still flow today, giving rise to its nickname, “The Fountain City.” WNBO radio here is the nation’s first to be solar powered. From here to Toledo, the 68.5-mile straight track is known as one of the “Air Line” routes due to its lack of even a single curve.



TOLEDO was founded in 1833 where the Maumee River enters Lake Erie. Fort Miami to the south is where General “Mad” Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians in 1794, clearing the settlement of Northwestern Ohio and Northern Indiana. Congress had to intervene to prevent Ohio and Michigan from warring over ownership of Toledo in 1835. Today, Toledo is the Glass Capital of the World, being home to Owens-Corning. During daylight hours, watch for some of the world’s largest grain elevators. Its largest employer for most of the last century was Jeep’s original manufacturer, Willys/Overland. Although the town’s well-known industrial base has contracted in recent years, it remains a headquarters for the Big Three automakers’ factories and parts suppliers. However, health care now leads the economy. Satirist P.J. O’Rourke, actor Jamie Farr and actress/model Katie Holmes all hail from Toledo.

During the night, we pass a huge nuclear power facility identifiable by massive plumes of steam. We cross the Portage River at Clinton, known as the “Walleye Capital of the World” due to an abundance of the fish caught here every year.

SANDUSKY To the left in the distance is the top of Cedar Point’s roller coaster, one of the world’s largest ride parks. Oliver Hazard Perry defeated the British fleet in 1813; a monument here stands testament. Possessed of an excellent natural harbor surrounded by islands, this is the second largest Great Lakes coal-shipping port. A network of abolitionists used its station on the “Underground Railroad” to help slaves escape to freedom before the Civil War. The city was the setting for the 1995 film, *Tommy Boy*.

Huron Thomas Alva Edison was born in the hamlet of Milan eight miles inland from here in 1847. Equipped with three months of formal schooling, he went on to own more patents than any other inventor. On the way into town, we cross the Huron River; on the way out of town, the Vermillion River, a tributary of Lake Erie.

ELYRIA is where the International Society for Crippled Children was founded in 1919; the Easter Seal followed in 1934. Elyria became a notable whistlestop in American political history during the 2008 Presidential campaign when then-candidate John McCain and “folkhero” Joe the Plumber met at a rally and posed for photographs that were transmitted around the world. To the southwest is Oberlin

College, one of the first to have coeducational classes. The city was named after its founder, Herman Ely, in 1817.

CLEVELAND is the largest city in the state, a leading manufacturing, trading and cultural center in the Midwest, and home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. Playhouse Square Center is the second largest performing arts center in the U.S. One Playhouse Square was the original studio where disc jockey Alan Freed popularized the term “rock and roll.” Many films have been shot here, including scenes from *Spider Man 3*, as well as the TV sitcom *The Drew Carey Show*. The city lies on the southern shore of Lake Erie, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River; the half-mile-wide river valley divides the city into an east and west side. The city has been home to famous political and business leaders including President James A. Garfield; John Hay, Secretary of State under President McKinley; and self-made millionaire John D. Rockefeller. That “Man of Steel,” “Defender of Truth, Justice and the American Way,” *Superman*, was the 1932 brainchild of two Cleveland natives, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

Ohio/Pennsylvania State Line

ERIE is an industrial city on the shore of Lake Erie, the state’s fourth largest. Known for its “lake-effect” snow, it attracts four million tourists each year to Presque Island State Park for water recreation and its new casino. Prior to the standardization of railroad gauges, the city was an important railroad hub in the middle of the 19th century. While only diesel-electric locomotive building remains from its former ranks of manufacturers, a diverse mix of mid-sized industries like more agile steel and plastics plants have emerged, joined by a vigorous service sector composed of health, insurance and tourism. During the War of 1812, Commander Oliver Hazard Perry also forced the surrender of a British squadron here, famously stating, “We have met the enemy and they are ours.”

Pennsylvania/New York State Line

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*.

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.

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 18th 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.

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.

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.

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.

ALBANY-RENSELAER 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 is based on 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, a humorist and commentator most 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. One of the busiest stations in the Amtrak system, it serves northeastern routes outside of the Northeast Corridor. They include 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.

The current structure dates from 2002, featuring a coffee shop, newsstand and post office. Here the Boston and New York City branches of our train, the *Lake Shore Limited*, meet. Depending upon your destination, the following traces the remainder of our route.

New York Branch

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.

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*.

Catskill was once a stopover for vacationers on their way to the Catskill Mountains. The area was purchased from natives in 1678 and the town was established in 1788. Former 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 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.

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 20th 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.

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.

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.

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.

West Point Academy, marked by stone battlements on the 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. Today, 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 McArthur.

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. The car was later displayed on a world tour. The 1980s fictional TV sitcom *The Facts of Life* was set in Peekskill.

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 *20th Century Limited*, exchanged their electric locomotives 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 Station some 33 miles south via Metro-North Railroad.

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 has 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.

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.

Harlem River We cross the river and enter New York's Manhattan Island at a point called Spuyten Duyvil -- Dutch for "spitting devil" -- that describes the tricky currents here where the Harlem River joins the Hudson 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*.

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 and 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 high 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. Here, Amtrak offers connections to its entire system through Chicago from New York

Boston Branch

PITTSFIELD, geographic and commercial hub of the culturally-rich Berkshires, is home to countless world-renowned institutions such as Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; the 100-year-old Colonial Theatre from the age of Vaudeville; and Arrowhead, home of author Herman Melville and where he wrote *Moby Dick*. Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric, makes his home here, as does comedian and actor Robin Williams each summer. In 2004, reference to a 1791 by-law prohibiting the playing of baseball was found here, the earliest known reference to the game in the U.S. -- a finding in conflict with the accepted year of its invention, 1839.

Westfield River Watch for wildlife as we follow the river for several miles. Here in the eastern Berkshires the Chester-Blandford State Forest offers beautiful scenery, a rustic park experience and the spectacular Sanderson Brook Falls.

SPRINGFIELD is perhaps best known as the birthplace of the game of basketball, invented in 1891 by James Naismith to fill the gap between football and baseball seasons. Its proud manufacturing history is highlighted by the Duryea brothers, who built the first gasoline powered "motor wagon" offered for sale in 1893; the Smith & Wesson revolver, dating to 1856; and Indian motorcycles, made here between 1901 and 1953. It is also the birthplace of Theodor Seuss Geisel -- a.k.a. Dr. Seuss -- widely known for his classic children's books. Located within the greater Springfield area are Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College and Smith College, among others.

WORCESTER Watch for church steeples as we pass through "Wooster" (pronounced "Wister" by some locals). Second largest city in New England, its City Hall was the site of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 14, 1776. In 1831, a local industrialist, Ichabod Washburn, developed the process for producing the barbed wire that fenced the American West. An early female entrepreneur, Esther Howland, designed and manufactured the first American Valentine cards here in 1847. Its history of social progressivism includes a number of temperance and abolitionist movements. The city was once known as the hometown of '60s activist Abbie Hoffman. Actor and comedian Denis Leary also hails from Worcester.

FRAMINGHAM is the most populous town in New England. The first person to lose his life in the American Revolution, Crispus Attucks, was from Framingham. The town is known for its famous heart study, begun in 1948 with 5,209 adult subjects, and now on its third generation of participants. Much of the current knowledge of heart disease is derived from this "evidence-based" medicine. The so-called "American system" of watch building was pioneered at the nearby Waltham Watch Company. Christa McAuliffe, the planned first teacher in space who was tragically killed in NASA's Challenger disaster, grew up in Framingham.

Newton is best known as a bedroom community for commuters to Boston despite a considerable range of commercial and manufacturing of its own. It was one of America's first commuter suburbs beginning in 1834, when the Boston and Worcester railroad reached Newton. Each April, the Boston Marathon is run through the city, entering from Wellesley College (the halfway point) and the students' "scream tunnel," to where runners encounter the first of four infamous "Newton Hills."

BOSTON is one of the oldest cities in the U.S. Founded in 1630, it was the site of many major historic events, including the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the Battle of Bunker Hill -- all during the American Revolution. Its rich history attracts upwards of 16 million visitors annually. It is the location of the first American public school (Boston Latin) and the first college (Harvard). Today, the city is an intellectual, technological and political center. Watch for Fenway Park on the right, home of baseball's Red Sox since 1912. South Station opened in 1899 and is the northern terminus of both Amtrak Northeast Corridor service and of several Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter trains. Be sure to catch the Museum of Science's scale model of the solar system while in the station. Famous former Bostonians form a very lengthy list, including former President John F. Kennedy, actor Ben Affleck and *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno.

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