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How on-time is the Amtrak in Charlottesville?

Question from/for a client: How on-time is Amtrak from Charlottesville to DC? And New York? (and back?)

by  Jim Duncan 3 years ago 586 Views ▾

Sometimes, Facebook is useful. Great answers from folks who ride the train with frequency.

Matt [Matthew Cohen](#)
Coh

You want this page: amtrak.com/historical-on-ti...

 3 YEARS AGO

Jim [Jim Duncan](#)
Dun

Thanks, Matthew. Wow. 1) Terrible webpage. 2) They misspelled "Culpeper" on the map (on "p")
3) 66% ontime? Good lord.

 3 YEARS AGO

Matt [Matthew Cohen](#)
Coh

1. Yes. You should be able to put in your exact route/stops and get a stat from that. 2. Snert. 3. Passenger rail traffic gets a major back-seat these days to commercial traffic.

 3 YEARS AGO

Cand [Candy Hargett](#)
Harg

And costs are crazy

 3 YEARS AGO

Wald [Waldo Jaquith](#)
Jaqu

A court ruling last year means that CSX has priority over Amtrak. It's *wrecked* Amtrak's on-time performance. (Due to how blame is assigned, even most of the delays chalked up to Amtrak are really CSX's fault.) The Supreme Court is taking the case. That said, I take the NE Regional to and from DC often. It is almost always on time. When it's been late recently, it's been when we've been blocked by a freight train. The cost is cheaper than driving.

 3 YEARS AGO

Heath [Heather Parham Mullen](#)
Parh

I've taken Amtrak from Cville to Philly & NYC several times over the past couple years, both Acela and Northeast Regional. Only one late boarding in Cville, by about 10 minutes...but I've had multiple delays once it got closer to DC and when passing through DC on the way back (meaning delays for anyone boarding in DC to come back to Cville). I love Amtrak but I mentally add an hour to each trip just in case.

 3 YEARS AGO

Heath [Heather Parham Mullen](#)
Parh

And I should say, I budget an extra hour when driving to DC during busy times, too, for traffic. At least with Amtrak you can sit back and relax. :)

 3 YEARS AGO

Nola [Nola Falletta Miller](#)
Falle

I take NE Regional to DC and NYC frequently and it's been very reliable. Way better than driving or flying!

 3 YEARS AGO

Jim
Dun

[Jim Duncan](#)

I took it to New York last year; it was fantastic. Shoes comfortably off, laptop and phone plugged in, and I worked the entire time. A bit pricey, but when factoring in gas, tolls, parking, opportunity time gained by not driving ... it's damn near a bargain.

 3 YEARS AGO

Cand
Harg

[Candy Hargett](#)

Seems when we've wanted to take Amtrak and figured costs for 2 to travel driving was much less.

 3 YEARS AGO

Katri
Sun

[Katrien Sundt Vance](#)

LOVE the train; good for children, too.

 3 YEARS AGO

Jim
Dun

[Jim Duncan](#)

My daughter, Alexandra takes the train with some regularity between Charlottesville and GMU ... I seem to recall her being late to leave and arrive ...

 3 YEARS AGO

Sean
Tub

[Sean Tubbs](#)

This is where I ask Meredith Richards a question. Does the money set aside in the Route29 Solutions package for a second daily train include track improvements that would address some of the prioritization issues?

 3 YEARS AGO

Dani
Roth

[Daniel Rothamel](#)

Candy is right about value for more than one person. Once you add a person or two, the train savings is wiped out. That being said, for myself, I've enjoyed it. I've only done it a handful of times, but never had a significant delay.

 3 YEARS AGO

Jason
Comfort

Never-ish

 3 YEARS AGO

Charlotte
Drummond

Ernie and I take the train to DC and NYC 2 or 3 times a year now and have rarely been late. Weighed against all the various costs and hassles of driving, (gas, parking and tolls being the highest), the train is a wonderful experience wrapped in a cost-benefit analysis. And our train trip to Montreal last year was 6 hrs to NYC and 10 hrs to Montreal the next day. And then back 5 days later. Never a problem, completely comfortable, and never tired of it.

 3 YEARS AGO

Gary
Albert

Went to ny last week for first time on Amtrak. Holy Leg Room! Power outlets at each seat, bring your own food if you want. Def recommend. The app shows average on times I believe.

 3 YEARS AGO

Jim
Duncan

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 3 YEARS AGO

Jeff
Uphoff

I commuted between C'ville and Connecticut every 2-3 weeks for over a year and was early more times than I was late, and I was never more than an hour late at either end, making the Northeast Corridor trains more reliable than the airlines (which I quit taking after awhile). That said, the Crescent and the Cardinal (*especially* the Cardinal) have abysmal on-time rates; I've rolled into C'ville 6-8 hours late on the Cardinal before.

 3 YEARS AGO

Charlotte
Drummond

They've never said anything against wine at our seats either:)

 3 YEARS AGO

Mich [Michael Guthrie](#)
Guth

I always take the 8:50 am train vs 7:20 because the earlier one has a propensity to be late.

 3 YEARS AGO

Kare [Karen Duncan Pape](#)
Dun

We take the train to Nyc 3 or 4 x a year and love it. Never late but often fully booked. Our son comes often from the city and the only time it was significantly late there was a person on the track. 😞

 3 YEARS AGO

Neal [Neal Ammerman](#)
Am

I have taken the train to DC and points north several times and it by far my preferred way to go. It has usually been on time or close. Since we won't have our much needed bypass, and the existing mess of 29N will get worse for the next couple years and still not solve the real problems, maybe thru travelers would rather ride the train that put up with the Cville area traffic mess. Just like we try to avoid DC traffic.

 3 YEARS AGO

Mere [Meredith Richards](#)
Rich

Amtrak publishes monthly performance reports (ridership; revenue; profit/loss; on-time performance) for all routes on its website, but the information is obscurely presented and hard to find. Thanks to Matthew Cohen for bringing to my attention this handy new on-line feature showing on-time performance (OTP) in an accessible way. The site shows 80.8% overall OTP for all Northeast Regionals for January 2015, but that is not very helpful if you want more specific information on the train you're planning to take. Also, only one out of six Virginia Northeast Regionals serves Charlottesville (the rest run in the Hampton Roads-Richmond-Fredericksburg corridor), so knowing the overall rate for the NER can be misleading if you're traveling to/from Charlottesville. Here are the NER train numbers serving Charlottesville, along with OTP for the month of January 2015 for each train, as shown on the Amtrak site. (Note that Amtrak defines On-time Arrival as arrival within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival time.) Northbound Mon-Fri (train 176) 80.0% Northbound Saturday/Sunday (train 156) 90.9% Southbound Mon-Fri (train 171) 65.0% Southbound Saturday (train 147) 100.0% Southbound Sunday (train 145) 100.0%

 3 YEARS AGO

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