



News Release

Alaska Railroad Reschedules Summer Passenger Trains to Begin July 1

Safety of Passengers and Crew the Highest Priority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCHORAGE, Alaska – In line with COVID-19 guidance from national and international health agencies, the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is extending the following temporary operational changes for regularly scheduled passenger operations:

- *Aurora Winter Train*: suspended through the end of 2019-2020 winter season (mid-May).
- *Coastal Classic Train*: daily scheduled service begins July 1, 2020.
- *Denali Star Train*: northbound service begins July 1, 2020; daily bi-directional service begins July 2, 2020.
- *Glacier Discovery Train*: daily scheduled service begins July 3, 2020.
- *Hurricane Turn Train*: operates April 2, May 7, and June 4, 2020 while maintaining social distancing requirements in applicable State and Municipal orders related to COVID-19; standard Thursday-Monday summer service begins July 2, 2020.

“We’ve been closely monitoring developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and what it means for our ability to safely operate passenger trains,” said ARRC President and CEO Bill O’Leary. “Delaying the start of our summer season wasn’t a decision we took lightly, but we believe it to be in the best interest of our passengers, crew, and the communities we serve.”

The changes in passenger schedules do not affect freight service. Passenger service personnel are reaching out to notify and provide refunds to all passengers and tour operators with bookings on the suspended trains. ARRC will continue to regularly evaluate passenger service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming weeks, the Alaska Railroad will continue to work closely with the governor’s office and federal agencies in anticipation of the safe resumption of full passenger operations. To support customers during this period of uncertainty, the Alaska Railroad is extending a flexible 24-hour cancellation policy through the summer 2020 season, in hopes that this policy offers some peace of mind for travelers with summer travel plans.