



It had to happen, and just at the time of year when train passengers are lugging more luggage, holiday gifts and other heavy stuff. With airline add-on costs ever rising into the upper atmosphere, it was only a matter of time before Amtrak got in on the racket.

Therefore, if you drag heavy bags aboard a train, you may expect a conductor or other eagle-eyed employee will nab you for extra charges. The current rule for free luggage is that each passenger may take two personal items that weigh up to 25 pounds each, as well as two carry-on bags that may weigh up to 50 pounds each. Realistically, the only rider who'd likely drag more heavy bags aboard a train is Santa Claus. However, Amtrak insists it will add a \$20 charge for each extra bag or bag over the weight allowance. Whatever it costs, it's still considerably cheaper than what the airlines charge. Further, your bags stay with you on the train instead of in the belly of the aircraft. Or flown by mistake to Timbuktu.