

Nearly 47 Million Will Set Independence Day Holiday Travel Record

A record-breaking 46.9 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more away from home this Independence Day holiday, a 5 percent increase from last year and the most travelers for the holiday since AAA began tracking 18 years ago.

The Independence Day holiday period is defined as Tuesday, July 3 to Sunday, July 8. For the 39.7 million Americans planning a Fourth of July road trip, Tuesday will be the busiest day.

“We are already seeing a busy summer travel season and Independence Day will be no exception,” said Vicky Evans, Assistant Vice President, Travel Sales Development, AAA – The Auto Club Group. “Consumers remain confident in the economy and have additional disposable income to put toward a summer getaway.”

In addition to strong economic variables, the expected increase in travelers this year is aided by Independence Day landing on a Wednesday, giving travelers more flexibility to schedule a trip the weekend before or after the holiday.

The Numbers

Nearly 47 million Americans will travel for Independence Day, 5.3 percent more than last year.

- This year will mark the fifth consecutive year of overall travel volume growth.
- Travel by automobile will increase 5.1 percent to 39.7 million (85 percent of all travelers).
- A record-breaking 3.8 million people will travel by air, a 7.9 percent increase and the ninth year of consecutive air travel volume increases.
- Travel by train, bus or cruise ship will increase by 5.8 percent to a total of 3.5 million passengers.

Gas Prices

Motorists will find the most expensive Independence Day gas prices in four years. The current North Dakota average of \$2.88 is 61 cents more than last year. The national average currently stands at \$2.87. Last year’s average price on July 4 was \$2.22 in North Dakota and \$2.23 nationwide.

Road Ready

AAA expects to rescue more than 362,000 motorists at the roadside around the Independence Day holiday. Dead batteries, lockouts and flat tires will be the leading reasons AAA members will experience car trouble. AAA recommends motorists take their vehicle to a trusted repair facility to perform any needed maintenance before heading out. Oil changes, fluid level checks, battery tests and tire inspections go a long way toward reducing the chances of a breakdown.

AAA Mobile App

Before heading out on a trip for Independence Day, download the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.