



## Driving somewhere for the holidays? Here's when not to leave



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF /FILE

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 21, 2017

If you're about to hop in the car today to get out of town for the holidays, you may want to rethink your timing, experts say.

Thursday afternoon from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. is expected to be the worst time to drive around the Greater Boston area this holiday season, according to [joint research](#) from the American Automobile Association and transportation analytics company INRIX Inc.

Traffic delays are expected to be twice as lengthy as normal for our neck of the woods, the companies said, based on their review of both historical and recent trends.

ADVERTISEMENT



---

Nationally, a record 107.3 million Americans will travel either by plane, train, car, or another mode of transportation this holiday season, the companies [said](#).

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

That marks a 3.1 percent increase from last year and a whopping 25 percent rise from 2005.

The vast majority of people traveling, some 97.4 million, will be on the roadways.

“More expensive gas prices are not swaying holiday revelers to stay home,” Bill Sutherland of AAA, said in a statement.

“In fact, across the board this year, travel has increased year-over-year for every major holiday weekend — Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving — and we project the same for the year-end holiday period. We’ve seen the strong economy and growing consumer confidence fuel holiday travel all year long.”

ADVERTISEMENT

---

---

Is there anything you can do to avoid delays?

Maybe.

AAA and INRIX advise that people avoid traveling through major cities during peak travel times, like today and tomorrow.

“The best times to leave are typically early morning or after the morning commute because the roads should be less crowded and you will have more time to get to your destination safely,” the companies

said in a news release.

“If your schedule permits, traveling on the holiday itself often results in fewer cars on the road,” they added.

ADVERTISEMENT



Georgetown University

Career Outlook for Real Estate



That fits with a separate analysis by traffic app Waze, which found that traffic during this holiday stretch is lightest on Christmas Day. And, it said, “Jan. 1st is as quiet in terms of traffic as any other Sunday.”

But it may also depend on where you’re trying to drive during the holiday season.

Because, interestingly enough, the number of requests from Waze users for directions to a grocery store spikes 61 percent compared to average, “similar to the last-minute Thanksgiving turkey rush!” the company said.

And, “On Christmas Day, navigations to movie theaters see more than a 130 percent increase.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)*

Show 5 Comments

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth’s last surviving child, dies at 102

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot

‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

Yvonne Abraham | Recycling can’t fix what really ails us

Patriots could be diving into the quarterback market

Can a former agent succeed in running the Mets?

Blind date: ‘He tried to convince me the newest Star Wars movie was bad’

Letters: Harvard Law faculty speak in support of resident dean representing Weinstein

Getting a tax refund? Here are some smart ways to spend the money.

MLB to have computers call balls and strikes in Atlantic League

A new service takes travelers from Boston to New York in a Tesla, for \$99

Red Sox still waiting for catching trade market to take shape

Incoming president of Columbia Gas pledges to fulfill promises

[In South Africa's fabled wine country, white and black battle over land](#)

[Boston. Racism. Image. Reality: The Spotlight Team takes on our hardest question](#)

[Your friendly neighborhood copy chief](#)

[Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities](#)

[Recycling can't fix what really ails us](#)

[First lady has a growing ease in her official role, but not politics](#)

[Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses](#)

[At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants](#)

[New Orleans Saints fans need to get a grip](#)

[As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution](#)

[Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved](#)

[Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time](#)

[Centrists squirm as 2020 Democrats swerve left](#)

[Most Popular In Metro →](#)

## Subscribe Now

[Digital Access](#)

[Home Delivery](#)

[Gift Subscriptions](#)

## My Account

[Manage my Account](#)

[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)

## Contact

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Order back issues](#)

## Social

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

## More

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

---

[Terms of purchase](#)

---

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

---

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC