



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Steamtown National  
Historic Site

150 South Washington Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18503

570-340-5200 phone  
570-340-5334 fax

---

## Steamtown National Historic Site News Release

September 7, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ralph J. Coury 570-340-5185

### Fall Excursion Season Opens at Steamtown Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania's Flaming Foliage by Rail

**Scranton, PA** – Throughout the month of October, Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, will offer a full schedule of *Fall Foliage* rail excursions along the Pocono Mainline. Climbing nearly 1,200 feet in elevation to the Village of Tobyhanna – the highest point along the former Erie Railroad Mainline – excursion trains will navigate a pre-Civil War era tunnel, travel alongside sparkling mountain streams and brooks, and pass through quaint rural communities and scenic wooded areas. From this vantage point, passengers will enjoy a rare birds-eye view of Northeastern Pennsylvania's *Flaming Foliage* and experience one of our Nation's most vivid displays of natural color and light.

All trains will arrive at the renovated Tobyhanna Station at 12:00 p.m. and return to the Steamtown Depot by approximately 3:00 p.m. At Tobyhanna, the Pocono Mountains Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) will host an open house. Excursion passengers will have an opportunity to visit the gift shop to find souvenirs of their day on the rails, purchase snacks and beverages, pass the time viewing a special model train exhibit or simply enjoy a sampling of the local culture. Others wishing to venture into the countryside may participate in the **Lackawanna Heritage Valley Nature Walk** along the former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) railroad spurs to visit the Mill Pond #1 Ice House and a preserved 1908 wooden boxcar. The historic Ice House is meticulously maintained by the Leonard and Saxe Families of Tobyhanna and remains operational, today.

On Sunday, October 31, the final mainline rail excursion of the 2004 season will roll out along the route of the *Heritage Valley Station Stops* to historic Pioneer City Station in Carbondale. A relaxing and nostalgic journey through the heart of Pennsylvania's Anthracite ("Hard Coal") region, the train will depart the Steamtown Depot at 10:00 a.m. and travel the recently re-opened Strawberry Hill Branch Line to the former Delaware & Hudson Railroad Mainline. Arriving at Pioneer City Station at 11:30 a.m., passengers will be treated to an afternoon of music, art, entertainment, sight-seeing, dining and exploration at the Carbondale Arts Festival. Then, at 3:00 p.m., the train will journey back to Scranton, arriving at Steamtown by approximately 4:20 p.m.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

### October Excursion Schedule:

October 2 and 3	Saturday/Sunday	Tobyhanna
October 9 and 10	Saturday/Sunday	Tobyhanna
October 11 (Columbus Day)	Monday	Tobyhanna
October 15, 16, and 17	Friday/Saturday/Sunday	Tobyhanna
October 23 and 24	Saturday/Sunday	Tobyhanna
October 30	Saturday	Tobyhanna
October 31	Sunday	Carbondale

According to Steamtown Superintendent Kip Hagen, “Visitation levels have risen considerably over the past year, closely mirroring activity prior to September, 2001.” He said, “The implementation of so many new programs and activities in the railroad yard, as well as the expansion of the Heritage Valley Station Stops and Pocono Mainline Excursions, has given us good reason to remain optimistic about the year ahead.” Planning is underway for an even more diverse excursion schedule and expanded “Live Steam” programs to coincide with Steamtown’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2005.

Located in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Steamtown is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. From I-81, follow exit 185 (Central Scranton Expressway); then, follow the signs to the main entrance at Lackawanna and Cliff Avenues.

Information and additional details may be obtained by calling (570) 340-5200 or toll free (888) 693-9391, or by visiting the Steamtown web site at [www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea).