

LEGENDARY N&W 611 STEAM LOCOMOTIVE RETURNS

Tickets for the 'Shenandoah Valley Limited' Are on Sale Now

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STAUNTON, VA – August 13, 2025 – Rail enthusiasts, history buffs, and fall foliage lovers have a thrilling opportunity to ride behind a legend this fall. Tickets for the highly anticipated *Shenandoah Valley Limited* featuring the iconic Norfolk & Western Class J #611 steam locomotive go on sale today.

This is a chance to not just observe history, but to actually take part in an extraordinary railroading experience. This 3.5-hour train ride, which begins and ends in Goshen, spans approximately 60 miles.

"Together with our partners, we are incredibly excited to bring back the Shenandoah Valley Limited," said **Steve Powell, President of the Virginia Scenic Railway**. "This collaboration allows us to offer a truly unique and memorable experience, combining the majesty of the N&W 611 with the stunning beauty of the Shenandoah Valley in autumn. It's a cool chance to step back in time and witness the power and grace of a living legend."

Dates: Weekends only from September 26 – October 26, 2025. The Shenandoah Valley Limited will have two departures on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The first at 9:00 am and the second at 2:30 pm.

Location: Excursions will depart from the custom-built Victoria Station in Goshen, Virginia. Free parking is available onsite.

Tickets: Tickets go on sale on August 13, 2025 and are exclusively available through the Virginia Scenic Railway website. A combination of coach, table, lounge & dome seating classes are offered.

The N&W 611 was built in 1950 by the Roanoke shop for Norfolk & Western Railway. Renowned for its streamlined design, incredible power, and speed, the 611 is the sole surviving Class J locomotive and holds designations as the Commonwealth's Official Steam Engine, a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Bringing the 611 back to the mainline for these excursions is a monumental undertaking from a committed team of partners," said **Mendy Flynn, Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation**. "The 611 is more than just a locomotive; it's a piece of American ingenuity and a symbol of our rich railroading heritage."

"For a short time, the 611 will be a living, operating piece of history. Opportunities to ride a steam locomotive of this caliber on the mainline are exceedingly rare, making this a must-do for any rail enthusiast," said **Dean Pyers, Executive Director of the Steam Railroading Institute**.

"Hosting 611 at Victoria Station is an honor; we are helping to keep Virginia's railroading legacy alive for future generations," adds **Will Harris, Founder, Virginia Mechanical Preservation Society**.

Operation of the Shenandoah Valley Limited is made possible by a joint venture between the Virginia Scenic Railway, the Virginia Museum of Transportation, the Steam Railroading Institute, the Virginia Mechanical Preservation Society, and the combined efforts of hundreds of volunteers. Learn more about the experience, the schedule, and the seating options at Virginia Scenic Railway.

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ABOUT THE PARTNERS

VIRGINIA SCENIC RAILWAY

Virginia Scenic Railway/Buckingham Branch Railroad

The Virginia Scenic Railway began service in 2022 and offers the state's only regularly scheduled sightseeing excursion service. VSR is owned and operated by the Buckingham Branch Railroad, the largest short-line railroad in Virginia with four divisions and 280 miles of track. *Learn more at VirginiaScenicRailway.com*



Virginia Museum of Transportation

The Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc. in Roanoke is the Commonwealth of Virginia's official transportation museum. It houses the largest collection of locomotives in the Mid-Atlantic region including the famed N&W Class J 611.



Steam Railroading Institute

The Steam Railroading Institute from Owosso, Michigan, is dedicated to educating the public about steam era railroading in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region. This includes preserving the skills and technology needed to maintain steam locomotives by operating steam era equipment and providing the experience of steam locomotives in actual operation. In addition to the fleet of passenger coaches and dining cars that will visit the Virginia Scenic Railway this fall, SRI also owns and operates Pere Marquette 1225, the locomotive animated in "The Polar Express" movie.



Virginia Mechanical Preservation Society

The nonprofit Virginia Mechanical Preservation Society in Goshen, Virginia, is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Commonwealth's mechanical and steam history. The organization developed Goshen's new Victoria Station to host steam engine excursions.