

I took a ride on the Rolls-Royce of buses – and it was better than Amtrak



Hollis Johnson ✉

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The modern airport experience is not an enjoyable one, especially in the midst of the Thanksgiving holiday rush.

Security lines, forever-rising ticket prices, and seemingly arbitrary fees all create a stressful and pricey experience.

Some are looking to other forms of transportation for an alternative. Amtrak had record ridership numbers in 2014, tallying [11.6 million passengers](#) along the Northeast Corridor alone.

And a [study](#) from the Chaddick Institute shows that inter-city bus ridership has also risen by an increase of 2.1% since 2013.

But buses are cramped and slow, earning their spot at the bottom rung of the transportation ladder. Trains aren't getting any faster, either, as the nation's rickety rail infrastructure ages and high-speed proposals are stymied.

I travel from New York City to Boston frequently, usually by bus, but after countless trips with my legs folded up like origami in uncomfortable seats, I'd just about had enough.

I had heard about [LimoLiner](#), a luxury bus service that makes three round-trips between New York and Boston Monday through Thursday every week. It makes more trips between the two cities over the weekend. With perks like free meals and individual leather seats, LimoLiner made Megabus sound like a stagecoach by comparison.

On a recent trip to Boston, I decided to compare LimoLiner with an [Amtrak](#) regional train to see which one offered a more comfortable experience for the price — and I was surprised by what I found.



After a delightful weekend in Boston, it's time to head back to New York. I find my way to the LimoLiner bus boarding area, directly in the shadow of the Prudential Tower in the heart of the Back Bay neighborhood. I booked the 3 p.m. bus, which left punctually.



I step on, and I'm impressed immediately. There are widely spaced leather reclining seats for all – that alone is worth the flat price of \$89 for a ticket.



The bus smells like nice leather, and there's gleaming wood everywhere. Well, it could be plastic, but it looks nice all the same. There are large TVs all around, which show news or movies.



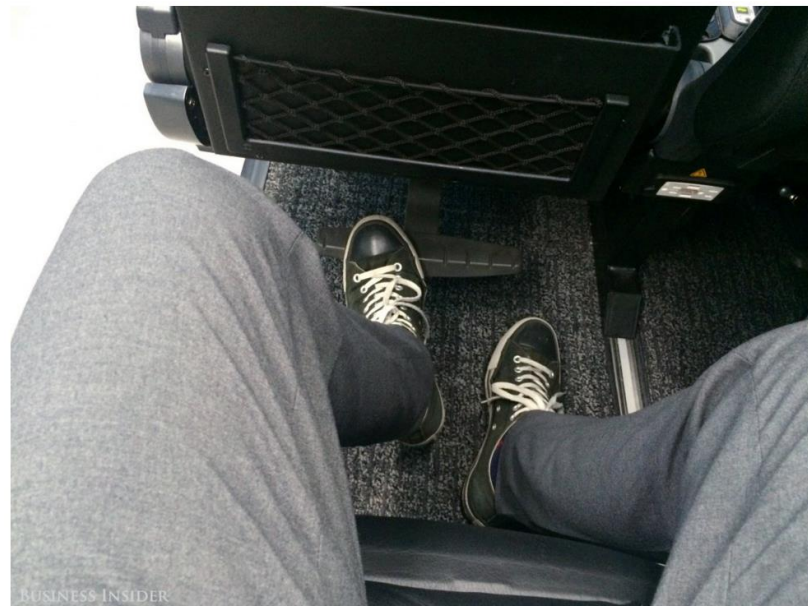
There are storage bays for large luggage and overhead space for carry-ons. Overhead storage is airplane-style, with closed compartments above each seat. The bus attendant will gladly help with any overhead luggage. There are even pillows in the overhead should you want them.



Working outlets: check.



Plenty of leg room here, and even a little foot rest. I can actually stretch out my legs!



Plus, I can cross them with room to spare, even with a reclined seat in front of me.



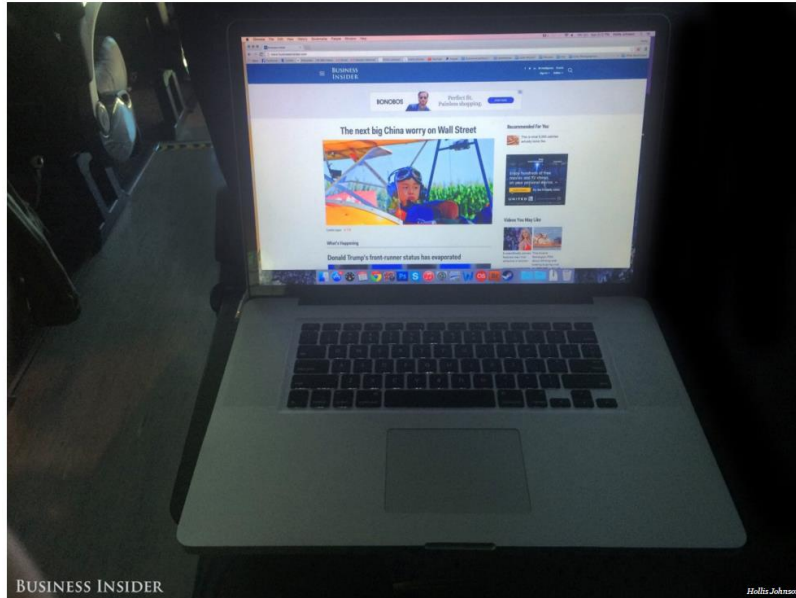
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The bus runs on the highway, so the views aren't always the prettiest, but there's plenty of sun coming in from the large windows, and there are shades if you want to sleep. The ride is a bit bumpier, but the comfy leather seats sure help.



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Each seat has a fold-out work table as well. They're a little on the small side, but I can make it work with my laptop. The Wi-Fi is slow, but faster than Amtrak's and easier to connect. Like on Amtrak, connecting to Wi-Fi is free.



Complimentary beverages, including soda, water, juices, teas, lemonade, and coffee, are available – just ask the attendant. Plus, there's another cup holder in the seat!



A complimentary meal is served on a red place mat. I chose a chicken parmesan and pasta dish. The other option was a grilled chicken salad. There are also vegetarian options, which you should note when you order your ticket.



Sure, it's microwaved, but it's really not bad considering. Hot all the way through, the cheese is melted, and the chicken is moist. Plus, need I repeat: It was free.



Snacks – like chips, pretzels, fruit, popcorn, and cookies – are offered later in the ride.



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The bathroom is probably the nicest bus bathroom I've ever experienced. While that may not be a high standard, it's still pretty nice. The room is bright and clean, and there's even art on the wall.



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No gross bathroom spills or trash here. I'm impressed.



The bus drops off at the corner of 53rd Street and 6th Avenue in Midtown. The downside was the length of the trip: Their schedule claimed the bus would arrive in the city by 7:40 p.m., but it was 8:15 p.m. by the time we disembarked.



I'm massively impressed by the LimoLiner service. Considering what I got for \$89 – comfy seats, a meal, drinks, snacks, and amenities like Wi-Fi and outlets – this bus beats Amtrak easily. Amtrak is generally more reliable than a bus, and I'm sure the business-class train experience is a different experience, but for the price, LimoLiner is my choice.



<http://www.businessinsider.com/best-way-to-travel-between-boston-and-new-york-2015-11>

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