

TRAVEL TIPS: **PLAN FOR SAFETY AND COMFORT ON YOUR NEXT BUS TRIP**

Bus travel is a great way to appreciate the ride as well as the destination, as passengers can relax and enjoy the scenery. It's an up-close, laid-back travel experience that's not the same by air or from behind the steering wheel. And with a little planning, bus travelers can help ensure their trips are as safe and comfortable as they are scenic.

STAY SAFE ON BOARD

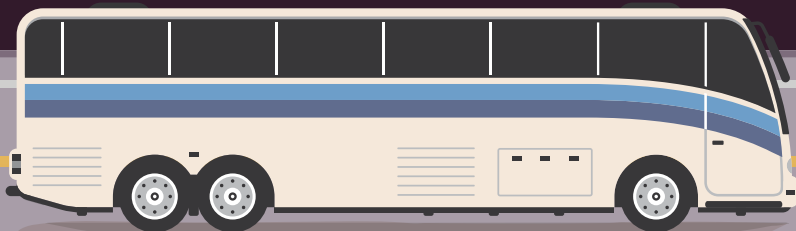
- Stay seated while the bus is moving. A quick swerve or stop could throw you off balance and cause injuries.
- If seat belts are available, stay buckled on board—most newer buses have them.
- Never block the center aisle with luggage or other belongings. Stow carry-on items securely in the overhead space or seat back pocket.
- Note the closest emergency exits, such as the emergency exit hatch in the roof above the center aisle, and windows that serve as exits. Follow the instructions on the windows or window frames.
- Your driver should point out the location of the fire extinguisher, which may be behind the driver's seat, beneath the front row passenger's seat, or in the front-most overhead compartment.
- Pay attention to and follow all your driver's safety instructions.
- If necessary, notify authorities of an emergency by calling 911.

PUT SAFETY FIRST IN TRAVEL PLANNING: RESEARCH BUS COMPANY SAFETY RECORDS

While most bus companies are responsible and operate safely, there are some that fail to meet safety requirements and may put passengers at risk. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA's) convenient Bus Safety Search lets you research bus company safety records before you book a trip or buy tickets.

Use the webpage to search bus company safety data by using a company's name or USDOT number. Many bus companies have similar names, so ask the company for its USDOT number. Learn more and search online by visiting

www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

LOOK BEFORE **YOU BOOK**

PACK FOR COMFORT

- Check luggage policies in advance. Ensure your valuables, electronics, medications, and snacks fit within your carry-on allowance.
- Bring a small blanket (space blankets take very little room), a travel pillow (inflatable ones fold flat), and a few layers of clothing you can add and subtract.
- Since travel stop options can be limited, bring drinks and non-perishable snacks (nuts, fresh or dried fruit, PB&J sandwiches, granola, protein bars, and the like). An insulated lunch bag with a frozen water bottle keeps foods like yogurt, hummus, or vegetables and dip fresh for hours.
- If you like to nap or sleep onboard, consider bringing ear plugs and a sleep mask; you may want to add slippers or an extra pair of socks and remove your shoes as you snooze.
- Pack a few bandages, first aid cream, and over-the-counter medications such as a pain reliever, antacids, or medication for motion sickness.
- Some buses offer electrical outlets and Wi-Fi, so consider bringing your portable devices, earbuds, and chargers for music and entertainment on the road.
- Keep travel-size hand sanitizers, wipes, and tissues at the ready.

