

# PLANNING A BUS TRIP? PUT SAFETY FIRST!

Bus trips are among the safest ways to travel – and most bus companies are responsible and law abiding. But some companies may not follow federal safety requirements – increasing the risk for breakdowns and crashes. It's important not to choose a charter bus or bus company on price alone. Instead, take a few minutes to research bus safety before booking.

## RESEARCH BUS SAFETY

You can research company safety records online [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook) – or download the convenient SaferBus mobile app. These tools let you quickly verify that the company is authorized to operate – and that it has required liability insurance. You can check the company's safety rating. You can also learn whether the company has a history of safety problems, such as:

- **Unsafe driving,**
- Using **drivers who aren't qualified or licensed** to operate a passenger bus,
- **Failing to perform required maintenance,** or
- **Not complying with regulations** that help prevent impaired driving due to fatigue, alcohol, illegal drugs or misuse of legal medications.

## EXPLORE DRIVER SAFETY

If you're planning to charter a bus, it's also smart to verify driver qualifications with the bus company. It's important to know if drivers have:


- A **current Commercial Driver's License (CDL)** with a "Passenger Endorsement" – which requires knowledge and road testing relevant to operating a bus.
- Drivers should meet all medical qualifications.
- Significant **experience** and a **good safety history** in operating buses.

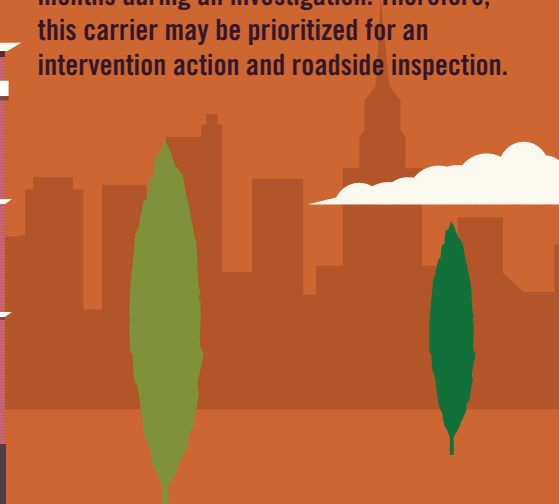
## LOOK BEFORE YOU BOOK

## QUICK SEARCH TIPS

- **Ask the bus company for its DOT Number** – and search by number, since many companies have similar names.
- **If your search includes a safety rating, Satisfactory is the highest rating** – meaning the company complies with federal safety requirements. A Conditional rating means the company may not be complying with some requirements, but can still operate. Bus companies with Unsatisfactory safety ratings are generally not allowed to operate.

### ONLINE OR IN THE SAFERBUS APP

- A **bold red alert** indicates a company is "not allowed to operate" – never book with a company that isn't authorized to operate.
-  **Denotes this carrier exceeds the FMCSA intervention threshold relative to its safety event grouping based upon roadside data and/or has been cited with one or more Acute/Critical Violations within the past 12 months during an investigation. Therefore, this carrier may be prioritized for an intervention action and roadside inspection.**





## NEVER ASK A DRIVER TO OPERATE UNSAFELY

Driving fatigued is dangerous. Drivers cannot drive for more than 10 consecutive hours - and cannot drive at all after 15 consecutive hours on duty.

For long trips, the bus company should provide a safe, backup driver. Trip planners and tour leaders should never ask a bus driver for “extra” or extended stops that could require on-duty hours that violate the law. And no one should ever ask a driver to speed to “make up” time.

## REPORTING SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS

If you see a company or driver operating unsafely, or failing to comply with Accessibility laws, report it through FMCSA's toll-free hotline at **1-888-DOT-SAFT (1-888-368-7238)** from **8 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., M-F Eastern Time** or use FMCSA's consumer complaint site anytime (<http://nccdb.fmcsa.dot.gov>).

If you believe you or others are in immediate danger due to unsafe operation, call 911.

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/lookbeforeyoubook)

Get More Bus Safety Information –  
and Take Advantage of FMCSA Tools  
to *Look Before You Book!*



## PASSENGER ADA RIGHTS

By law, bus operators must provide timely service for passengers with disabilities. However, charter and tour bus operators may require 48-hours advance notice to provide service. If an over-the-road bus operator has an available bus, it must, upon request, provide an accessible bus which includes a lift for passengers who cannot climb stairs to board, locations to secure a wheelchair, and other features to ease travel.