

# Travel articles

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**Note:** Some of the articles are raw versions meaning that they are not edited and proofread as this is the copy that I have on my computer. Please pardon some grammar or spelling mistakes if any.

## Fun fun fun sun sun sun - bewitching charter bus holiday to St. Petersburg Florida

It's so easy to have fun in St. Petersburg Florida that even backpackers will have a ball not knowing where to head - there are entertainment options everywhere. But of course, for me, a charter bus was the way to get around St. Petersburg because I wanted to take in as much as I can while I was there on a business trip. No time to lose was my predicament. So, every waking moment I had, I took the charter bus places.

Nearby, we have the Orlando (center of entertainment for Florida, I believe) and then there's Miami...endless fun all year round, hundreds of tourists everywhere as I cruised the streets in my charter bus. So, I hit the beach in my charter bus during the day time and then hit the dance floor in some of the best St. Petersburg's entertainment outlets. At St. Petersburg's nightspot called 'The Wave', there was a unique combination of pulsating sound and throbbing lights that left a deep impression on me. Rockaway Grill, a humongous French restaurant wasn't bad as well.

I've heard a whole lot about Calidesi Island from my colleagues who have taken charter bus trips to St. Petersburg before but what I saw took my breath away. I wasn't surprised Dr. Beach called it the No.2 best beach in the country! The charter bus dropped me off here and he didn't hear from me the whole day because I was too busy taking a nature trail, soaking up some sun, shelling, doing a little swimming...blissful!

I stayed at this nice and inexpensive Bed and Breakfast which cost me \$90+ a night which was affordable because it wasn't your ordinary bed and breakfast. This St. Petersburg is equivalent to a small luxury motel...go figure. But it was good. When I realized that my charter bus trip has ended, I started planning my next charter bus trip there and then.

I just couldn't wait to come back for more of St. Petersburg Florida!

## Memorable birthday charter bus trip to San Francisco

Strange, isn't it? I've never been to San Francisco even though I've lived in Sacramento all my life and have been to many cities all around the world but I've never actually thought about renting a charter bus, pack my bags and just go to San Francisco. Of course, I was mighty curious about the Alcatraz and all but still...never crossed my mind. Anyway, because of this very reason, for my birthday this year, I called up a couple of friends, got a charter bus and told them that we're heading for San Francisco!!

No prizes for guessing where we stopped the charter bus first - Alcatraz!! Finally I get to see this notorious but fabulous San Francisco attraction! It was eerie knowing that murderous criminals called this place home but it was also enchanting. For some picture-taking, the charter bus took us around to Alamo Square which was nothing short of bewitching! Breathtaking even though it's just listed as a residential area. The reason why we loved taking pictures at this San Francisco residential area is because it overlooks the modern skyline while it is back-dropped by turn of the century homes - it's like you look one side, it's modern city, you look back, it's another place and time! Very memorable.

One of the most amazing places we went for my birthday in San Francisco was, in fact, Japanese Tea Garden. Don't ask me why, I just loved how this traditional garden sort of just covers all five acres of land. And oh, there's the waterfall, the Buddha statue, the pagoda that I took hundreds of pictures with! I don't know...there was something magically different about this San Francisco attraction, so much so that I didn't really want to get back on the charter bus.

Based on recommendation, we took the charter bus to one of the most heavenly San Francisco restaurants I have ever come across and it's called simply as Roy's Restaurant. It's an Asian restaurant and offers a wide variety of Asian feat for our Western palates! Absolutely delicious...no questions about it.

Anyway, based on experience, if you want to visit San Francisco, rent a charter bus. It really made a difference to my trip and it's pretty cheap too! So, have a go and visit San Francisco by charter bus - have fun!

## Wild and whacky charter bus weekend getaway in Atlanta Georgia

There is so much to see and do in Atlanta that it's not completely possible to take a charter bus holiday for a week and expect to see everything. Together with some friends, we discovered this the hard way. Before setting off on a charter bus for Atlanta Georgia, we wrote up a whole list of things that we wanted to see and do in Atlanta. By the end of the week when the end of our charter bus holiday in Atlanta, we barely finished half the list. But at least we can say that we had a smashing good time there and will not hesitate to plan another charter bus trip to Atlanta...this much we can tell you!

It wouldn't make any sense to take a charter bus to Atlanta Georgia and not at least make a charter bus stop at the famed CNN Studios, would it? We took a short guided tour around the facilities, learned about how the taping works and participated in the Talk Back Live. It was totally whacky and out of this world! Another memorable charter bus stop was the awesome Fox Theatre which was, we learned in the charter bus, almost torn down. But now, this honest-to-goodness gem of a building is one of Atlanta's most prized possessions! When you take a charter bus there, you'll get to see some world-class acts in the form of Broadway, concerts, film series and such...it's truly Atlanta.

We had a Martin Luther King Jr. fan among us so all of us tagged along in the charter bus to The King Center rather reluctantly at first. But the moment the charter bus came to halt in front of The King Center, our squeals of delight must have rang through the entire block! It was awesome to see the life of a great American Legend right in front of our own eyes.

***Unbelievable!***

You don't come all the way to Atlanta in a charter bus to eat fast food - so we unanimously agreed to eat at a place called Ann's Snack Shack. We were overwhelmed with the number of people waiting for their food while we tried to elbow through. Despite the owner being a little aloof about our impatience, we were finally rewarded with burgers the size of a fridge that tastes exactly like Heaven! Boy, the wait was definitely worth it - so, my advice would be to go there early and be first in line!

## Our top five favorite charter bus spots in Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham can be an extremely fun place to charter a bus in because there is a wide range of activities for both kids and adults to do there. Of course, everyone has his or her favorite places to visit but we're sure the whole family will get the chance to have a ball in Birmingham Alabama if you hire a charter bus there. Here's a roundup of our favorite places to visit via a charter bus in Birmingham.

1. Vulcan Park - This is definitely one of the places you shouldn't miss whenever you're in Birmingham simply because it offers an awesome view of the city from way up the statue. The view is breathtaking, even from the charter bus itself, and the museum will be thoroughly enlightening.
2. Pete's Famous Hot Dogs - This is not your typical tourist attraction but we couldn't help ourselves and felt that we had to include it into our favorite Birmingham spots. Their hot dogs are totally scrumptious and mouth-watering. Very hard to resist a second order, be warned!
3. The Jazz Café - If there was one place we can call the 'best kept secret of Birmingham', it would be The Jazz Café. So, if you're into bluesy music and a jazzy atmosphere, you ought to make your way here by charter bus. The joint is not the biggest in Birmingham but the music and atmosphere there is definitely going to make the trip worthwhile.
4. The McWane Center - This is pure kiddy haven! If you have whining kids in the charter bus, make your way to McWane Center to have your kids blown away by the IMAX theatre. There is a wide variety of IMAX movies there but the most amazing ones we've seen are Titanic, The Lewis and Clark Expedition. It isn't the cheapest place to go in Birmingham but trust us, many people from all over the country in their charter bus (and world) make their way to The McWane Center throughout the year (especially during the holiday seasons) specifically for the experience.
5. Zoolight safari - This Birmingham tourist attraction is a must-see because this is where you get to see thousands of lights on display, walk through zoo grounds, enjoy musical and animal demonstrations. If you get tired walking around the vast grounds of the zoo, you can hop on to the ZooLight Express Train. The kids will love the ride, tired or not. The staff of the Birmingham ZooLight Safari should be commended for keeping the zoo absolutely spotless.

There you have it, our top five favorite charter bus spots for Birmingham. Want a taste of the pie? Get a quote from us on our charter bus rental rates now.

## Bus travel booking online

Long gone were the days when we had to spend days or worse, weeks, trying to find the right bus travel service with an efficient and professional bus travel service provider. In fact, with the continuous growth and popularity of the Internet as a mode of bridging the gap between companies and consumers, booking of bus travel services is now available for many of the larger bus travel companies. All you have to do is to locate them through the yellow pages, online directories or search engines, do a little investigation into the background of the bus travel company and then make a booking online. All completely behind your desk - you don't have to move a muscle to make a booking online with your preferred bus travel company...except for some finger muscles, of course.

The great thing about bus travel booking online is, of course, the convenience it brings. Nothing beats booking a bus from the office or home without having to drive up, battle with the daily traffic and finding parking just to book a bus. However, there are tips to bus travel booking online that you have to take into consideration. Being too hasty makes one careless and with the kind of convenience bus travel booking online brings, it's almost too easy to be careless.

Bear in mind that there are many websites that claim to offer bus travel booking online services but in actual fact, they're mere agents. This means to say that whenever you book a bus with them, they don't own charter buses and do not rent buses out; they turn around and book a bus with a company. While there is nothing wrong with that, it just means that you're not getting the best bus rental rate in the market! Wouldn't it be cheaper for you to go directly to the bus company instead of booking bus travel services from this 'agent' who claims to own buses and rent them out for affordable rates? Although there isn't much that we can do to determine the genuineness of the websites that you're looking into, one way to test the water is to find out how reputable the bus company is before you make bus travel booking online with the website. The more reputable the bus company is, the higher the chances that you're getting good bus rental rates. The only way you can check this is to call them or visit them - and since we're talking about bus travel booking online, the best way would be to obtain their contact telephone number and give them a call.

And another way to ensure that the bus travel booking online is made from the main source is to go to online forums or message boards and ask around. Many people who have previously made bus travel bookings online with the said bus company would be more than happy to share their experiences with you. Just search for 'bus travel community' or 'bus travel message board' through your favorite search engine and we're sure you'll come up with some credible forums and websites to post your question in.

The other thing to consider before you confirm your bus travel booking online is to find out who their clients are. The bigger the clients are, the

better. If large International companies have been doing business with the bus company, there are very few reasons why you can't or shouldn't.

As long as you do a little homework before booking your bus travel online and trust your instincts, there is little else you can do to ensure that you're getting the best bus travel rates online. But as far as we know, instincts are almost always right. for more information on bus travel bookings online, please go to \*\*\*\* and if ever in doubt, please give our customer service representatives a call at \*\*\*\*\*.

## **Daytona Beach bus tour attraction - Daytona USA**

If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind experience during your bus tour holiday to Daytona Beach Florida, here's a place that you should NEVER miss! Irregardless of whether you're a sport fan or a NASCAR fan or an F1 fan or not even a fan of racing of any kind, make a Daytona Beach bus tour stop here. You'll be awed, this...we promise you. They have very unique hands-on experience which will give you a very in-depth understanding and feel of what goes on when races are being held there. The interactive shows held at this Daytona Beach bus tour attraction will also explain the technology they use and historical points of interest that fans and non-fans might be interested in.

We strongly urge you to take their 30-minute tour around the place. And of course, if you DO decide to make a bus tour stop at this Daytona Beach attraction, try out their NASCAR stimulators. Also give their pit road, garage area a quick tour. I was especially touched by their tribute and dedication of the Legend Dale Earnhardt!

On top of being spanking clean, this Daytona Beach bus tour stop is extremely big. We have to give it to the management for managing the Daytona Beach attraction so well. In an effort to make this attraction even more attractive, they are always modifying, adding new attractions, undergo renovations to make visitors' experience an even richer one.

For more information on Daytona USA, a top-class Daytona Beach bus tour attraction, visit their website at [www.daytonausa.com](http://www.daytonausa.com), give them a call at 386-947-6800. Daytona USA is located at 1801 West International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1215.

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## **Outback Steakhouse - a worthwhile bus tour destination in Anchorage**

Can you imagine the kind of bus tour you would have in Anchorage if all you have had to eat was fast food? What about the glitz, the glamour and what about some romance during this Anchorage bus tour holiday? Well, worry not, there's always Outback Steakhouse, which is one of the country's most popular steakhouse! You know it and probably have eaten there before - so, it is good news that there's an Outback outlet in Anchorage.

Before you make a bus tour stop at this outlet, let us tell you something interesting. Outback Steakhouse first started out in Tampa Florida and today, it has more outlets in the country that they first imagined. What's interesting about Outback Steakhouse is that this Anchorage bus tour dining stop is very particular about their food and has special menus for people who are health conscious. Due to their concern about health and freshness of their food, their menu may differ slightly from outlet to outlet. Outback Steakhouse is only available for dinner, therefore, get the bus tour driver to take you guys there for a very romantic and healthy dinner.

Although reservation is not required, it is best that you give them a call before dropping by to avoid a long wait. Call this Anchorage bus tour dining destination at (907) 562-8787. They are located at 101 W. 34th, Anchorage AK 99503 and for more information before you make a bus tour stop there, visit their website at <http://www.outback.com>

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### **Bar Bianco (Phoenix Arizona)**

Looking for a nice little bar to sit around chatting with your friends without all the noise and loud music after a nice meal during your bus tour holiday trip in Phoenix? Look no further than Bar Bianco which is adjoining Pizza Bianco. The bar and the pizzeria have the same owner. It's just very convenient to make a bus tour stop over at Pizza Bianco for delicious pizza and then hop on over to Bar Bianco for a couple of drinks after that. Well, you don't have to dine at the Phoenix pizzeria in order to have a couple of drinks there - but there's the convenience and good food to consider, though.

The venue is actually a nice little 1909 house gives a very warm and comfortable feeling. The dark woods and soft romantic lights had something to do with. The ambience at this bus tour wine bar is relaxing and the music just-nice so that people you can have a conversation without having to holler yourself hoarse. There are soft candles that set the mood for romantic couples and for those who are in for some wine, you'll love their large selection. Of course, they serve beer and other types of cocktails and liquor too.

Bar Bianco opens from Tuesday to Saturday from 4pm till 11pm. They are closed on Sunday and Monday. When you make a bus tour stop at this top Phoenix bar, you'll find that the dress code is pretty plain and simple. There are those who come in business suits but many others wear casual clothing for their bus tour stop here. The bar, itself, serves appetizers, so, if you get hungry midway, you can certainly order a couple of dishes without having to go over to the pizzeria.

All in all, the atmosphere at Bar Bianco, one of Phoenix's best wine bars, is a worthwhile visit after a tiring ay of exploring Phoenix. Bar Bianco is located at 609 E Adams St, Heritage Square, Phoenix, AZ 85004. For more information, call 602-528-3699 or visit their website at <http://www.pizzeriabianco.com/bar/index.html>

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## **F.A.O. SCHWARZ (Manhattan NY)**

If you're ever in Manhattan NY with the kids and they're begging you for a fun bus tour stop, you should make your way to F.A.O. SCHWARZ. F.A.O. SCHWARZ is a more fun version of Toys 'R Us! You don't have to splurge or go home with a new luggage of toys after your bus tour stop at this Manhattan NY toy store because the kids will have a swell time just lounging around the toy store and trying out the many different activities they have there every other day. You know what? Not only will the kids have fun at this Manhattan toy store but even the grownups will have a smashing good time during your bus tour stop.

FAO Schwarz has been around since 1862 which is a surprise some because of the wide acceptance of Toys 'R Us as the world's largest chain of toy stores. But the German owners of FAO turned their modest specialty store into a world-renowned toy store in a short span of time. So, don't miss the chance to make a special bus tour visit to this amazing Manhattan NY toy store when you get the chance.

During some of their promotions, they run some pretty cool discounts off of some of their toys and merchandize. And like Toys 'R Us, they offer lots of toy brands ranging from Barbie dolls to Maclaren toys, from Lego to Playmobil. Grab some toys home and reserve them as gifts during birthdays if they have a discount or promotion on - it's worth it!

But that's not the highlight of this Manhattan bus tour stop! Now just imagine you're a kid and you can make a monster or produce a doll or become a fashion designer or explore the art of Tutu Couture or make your buggy....how about that? Would that make you giddy? You bet! These are some of the kids' activities that F.A.O. SCHWARZ holds for their bus tour visitors. All in all, it's like entering a childhood fantasyland!

As you can see, it will be a real treat for the kids. To make a bus tour stop here, make your way to 767 Fifth Avenue, (Fifth Ave at 58th Street), New York, NY 10153. For details, call (212) 644-9400 or visit their website at <http://fao.com>.