

VIA ROAD TRIP

The Quarterly Newsletter from 

A Message from Our President



Curtis Riggs, CEO, VIA Trailways

To Our Valued Customers

As a privately-owned company, we understand the need to keep costs down while operating efficiently. We constantly search for ways to maximize the value of our services. From time to time, however, it is necessary to adjust our rates to compensate for increases in expenses.

You may notice that there's an itemized charge on your most recent charter. Starting in March 2022, VIA Trailways has added a 10% fuel surcharge to all newly chartered trips. Today's fuel prices are changing at an unforeseen pace due to uncontrollable elements; inflation, higher demand and most predominately, the war in Ukraine. A fuel surcharge is needed to recover this cost increase.

We want to assure you that even with the added fuel surcharge, the cost to charter a bus from VIA Trailways is still one of the lowest in our region. In addition, chartering a bus for your trip will save you money on gas, vehicle maintenance and time. Our buses seat up to 55 passengers, so when you charter a VIA bus, you're reducing an average of 13 vehicles on the road, thereby decreasing emissions and the cost paid at the pump.

At VIA Trailways, we strive to provide the best service at a reasonable cost. We also maintain the highest level of professionalism which you know you can always expect from us.

We value your business and look forward to continuing to meet your transportation needs.

From Skyline to Shoreline Explore With Us



CALIFORNIA **ARIZONA**
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Email:

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www.viatrailways.com



In This Issue

How To Travel and Save \$\$\$ This Summer

WE'RE MODERNIZING OUR FLEET!

As the recovery from the COVID shutdown continues and travel rebounds, business is improving at VIA.

Charter work in Arizona is at record highs. California charter work is being held back only by the driver shortage, and we are working to overcome that. With increased demand, we are retiring two of our oldest motor coaches. They will be replaced with two new Prevost H3-45 coaches scheduled to be delivered this April.

Additionally, we have just concluded a renewal of our contract with our major tour operator for their work throughout 2023.



How To Travel and Save Money This Summer: Doing More with Less and Enjoying Your Vacation

As inflation and gas prices continue to rise across the United States, travel experts say it could soon lead to more expensive flights and travel costs. Here's what to expect, in the air, at the rental car counter and beyond. Independent online travel giants, such as Booking.com and Kayak, have reported a significant decrease in hotel, flights and car bookings since February 1, 2022. The World Travel & Tourism Council, which represents the global travel and tourism industry, projects that travel and tourism in the United States will only contribute about \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2022- half of what was originally projected for the year*.

With the war in Ukraine, and growing global tensions, the council also anticipates outbound travel from the United States will decrease. The good news is, that even though prices are high and are expected to continue to rise, this may not discourage travelers who are feeling vacation deprivation and are determined to have their long-overdue summer getaway.

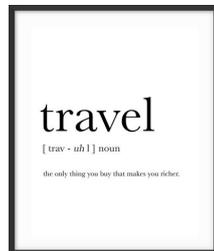
Here are a few tips on how to save money on travel this summer:

- **Plan ahead and book early.** As it gets closer to the time of travel, there is a lot less inventory which drives the price of travel higher since there is less supply left.
- **Avoid traveling during peak periods such as Spring Break and holiday seasons.** Prices will be more expensive during "popular" travel periods and travel may become more stressful.
- **Take shorter trips that are closer to home.** Save on hotel and travel costs by exploring what's available in your own region or state. You'll not only save on your trip, you'll also contribute to the local economy.
- **Use ride share services instead of car rentals.** Car rental prices have risen by 400% since 2021. You should now expect to pay an average of \$130 per day for rentals. Using services, such as Lyft and Uber, can mean \$\$\$ in your pocket for more enjoyable trip expenses, such as dining and attractions.
- **Charter buses for your trip.** You can save more money by spreading the cost among larger groups. Coach buses normally carry between 40 - 60 passengers and are a great way to spread the cost of your vacation with family, friends or like-minded travelers.

Higher costs don't necessarily mean that along-awaited vacation is out of reach. A commons-sense approach and a few cost-savings measures will ensure that you can "vacay your way" without breaking the bank.

HAVE A NICE TRIP!

*Credit:USA Today Travel March 2,2022



Let VIA Trailways help with your trip planning!

We offer charter bus service to all popular California and Arizona destinations.

Contact us today at:
info@viatrailways.com

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATS TO

Director of Sales and Marketing

Cindy Kelly

Class of 2022

Merced Police Department
Community Police Academy



We extend our congratulations to Cindy Kelly on her acceptance into the 2022 Merced Police Department Community Police Academy. Cindy has applied several times over the years and was enrolled in February.

The abbreviated police academy is an opportunity for selected citizens to discover the "behind-the-scenes" operations of law enforcement.

Cindy has begun receiving basic training in strategic and tactical communications, SWAT and K-9 units, bomb threats, critical incident response, hand-to-hand combat, crime analysis, investigations, gang violence suppression and use of force.

In the coming weeks, "g_ ' hqjZ_ ' h t f v] ^ [_] ' h v' internal affairs, crime scene response, court procedures and community relations.

We appreciate her hard work and participation in learning what it takes to keep our community safe.

