

VIA ROAD TRIP

The Quarterly Newsletter from 



“New Year, New Me” — but does it ever go to plan? Whether you usually stick to your New Year’s resolutions or let them fall by the wayside (or perhaps, never bother with them in the first place), here are some travel goals for 2023 that will lead you to the wanderlust life you dream of.

➤ **Do something for the first time**

Life is much sweeter when you’re willing to step out of your comfort zone and do things you’ve never done before. Whether it’s zip lining, bungee jumping or trying a new food, doing something for the first time is exhilarating and oftentimes life-changing.

➤ **Make a travel vision board**

Vision boards don’t just have to be for your career or personal goals; they can be for your travel goals as well. Spend an afternoon with snacks, wine, and friends and curate a vision board of the destinations you want to visit, foods you want to try, and excursions you desire to go on — the world is your oyster.

➤ **Add travel to your monthly budget**

If you really want to be a traveler in 2023, make it a priority and add a travel fund to your budget. If you don’t have enough money in your budget for travel, consider cutting other expenses like shopping and eating out. Setting aside 5% of your monthly income for your travel fund is a great way to save up for your dream vacation.

➤ **Learn to make a traditional meal from a place you want to visit**

Food is a huge part of most cultures. Take a look at your travel vision board, pick a destination and make a traditional meal. From Gumbo to Tamales, you’ll be surprised at how connected you can feel to a place and its culture through food.

➤ **Invest in really good luggage**

A huge part of travel is packing, unpacking, and taking luggage through the airport, hotels, etc. Investing in good luggage is super important. Get the luggage for the trips you want to go on. When you have a quality luggage set, walking through the airport feels different, no matter how flustered you may be.

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To Our Customers,

VIA Trailways has always been committed to providing our customers with only the highest quality customer service and an unrivaled charter bus experience. We pride ourselves on maintaining a reputation for safe and cost-efficient travel.

As we look forward to 2023, I would like to say thank you for being a loyal customer. It has been a pleasure serving you throughout the years. It is people like you that have helped our business get where it is today. We hope that we can have the pleasure of providing for you and your groups for many more years to come. We appreciate your trust, and we’ll do our best to continue to give you the kind of service you deserve and have come to expect from VIA Trailways.

We wish you a Happy New Year full of grand adventures and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Curtis Riggs/CEO
VIA Trailways



Planning the Perfect Vacation

5 Tips for Making Your 2023 Getaway a Reality

Planning is by far the hardest part of taking a vacation. There are so many variables to consider, so many unknown and unforeseen obstacles that you can't anticipate. So how do you go about planning the perfect vacation and have peace of mind that it's going to be the vacation you've dreamed about?

Here are five tips* to make sure your vacation in 2023 is the best one yet.

1. Choose Your Dates Wisely

Most people decide when to vacation based on their own school schedules and holidays, but that might not be the best idea, if you have a choice. It's always better to choose a date that avoids peak season, extreme weather conditions, holidays and school vacations. Choosing "shoulder-season" or off-peak dates will ensure your vacation isn't washed away by bad weather, trampled by herds of other travelers, or ruined by an unexpected closure.



2. Set a Reasonable Budget

Booking a trip without researching the costs associated with vacationing there can lead you down a financial wormhole. Know how much hotels are, how much food will cost and how much to expect for transportation costs before you book your trip. Be honest with yourself when it comes to your budget.



3. Compare Prices to Find the Best Deals

Check various dates to make sure travel and hotel costs aren't astronomical. Adjusting your dates by a few days or weeks, or choosing a different destination all together, can mean significant savings. Do this before you firm up your dates. Then spend a good amount of time combing through different travel sites looking for good deals to ensure you're the best value for the money you're spending.



4. Book Quickly When You See a Good Deal

If you find a good deal based on the research you've already done, don't hesitate to book it immediately. The best deals rarely stick around for long. If you have the main details of your schedule and plan already worked out, you shouldn't have to hesitate before buying. For hotels, just beware of booking those popular non-refundable deals without being 100% sure of your plan before booking.



5. Let Go and Have Fun!

If you've followed steps 1-4 you should have no problem with number 5. You did your research, completed your homework and you have all the details worked out. If something goes wrong at this point, there's not much you can do about it. So now is when you relax and go with the flow. If something does go wrong, it'll make a good story later. You might not be laughing about it now, but if you can adopt an "it is what it is" attitude, you'll have fun no matter what happens. It's all part of the journey.



*excerpted from Wanderlust Magazine, December 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our offices will be closed for the following holidays:

January 2, 2023 - New Year's Holiday (observed)

January 16, 2023 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

From Skyline to Shoreline Explore With Us

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

www.viatrailways.com



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CINNAMON LANGS

*2022 California Bus Association
Driver of the Year/Large Operator*



Cinnamon joined the VIA Trailways team as a UC Merced CatTracks and Motorcoach driver. She received all the training to become a SPAB certified driver, then began providing off-campus and on-campus transit services, as well as driving charter trips.

Once her daughter, Cayenne, graduated from high school and started college at the University of Oregon, she became a full-time motorcoach driver with the freedom once again for unlimited travel.

She began gaining experience with travels over most of the western United States, to Yosemite and other national parks, all parts of California, and destinations in Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, to name a few. She has driven for Super Bowls in LA and Arizona, Coachella, Rose Bowl parades and games, four-star tours for Collette, educational tours and travel for various student groups. The list is endless, and her experience is vast. Cinnamon upgraded her driving certificate to School Bus, the highest level of passenger transport in the state of California. Her signature is not just to drive customers, but to engage them, while remaining professional. She has been known to cheer for her group's competitions and even to dance with the groups at their functions, when invited to attend. She has a knack for participating with group events, while maintaining the utmost professionalism. She is the driver of choice for the Tauck Tours KM San Francisco/Sequoia/Yosemite tour, because of her safe driving and ability to maneuver smoothly through mountainous terrain.

In her "private" life, her favorite places to travel to are the ocean, Pebble Beach, the Lone Cypress tree, and Lovers Point. She loves visiting interesting and different locations.

She also supports her community by teaching Tap and Ballet classes in conjunction with the City of Merced Recreation Program. She's excited about teaching dance, "Dance is my skill, my hobby, my craft. It's in my blood, in my roots. My goal is to promote positive self-expression, fun, confidence building, and skill."

Congratulations on being the 2022 California Bus Association Driver of The Year/Large Operator Award recipient Cinnamon! You deserve it!