

The Leader In Accessible Van Rentals

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Welcome To Wisconsin, the Home of Wheelchair Getaways' Newest Franchise Location!

Wheelchair Getaways is pleased to announce the opening of a new franchise in Ripon, Wisconsin. Owners, Dave Meilahn and Tom Rogers, are committed to providing quality accessible van rental services throughout "The Badger State."

Witnessing the vibrant autumn colors of the shorelines would be reason enough to take a drive through the state, but seasonal driving tours also offer a variety of must-see sites. Wisconsin's most amazing waterfalls, national forests, scenic landscapes, quaint towns and villages, wildlife, and wineries are found along the fall driving tours. For more information on tour opportunities contact the Wisconsin Department of Tourism at 1-800-432-8747 or visit their website at www.travelwisconsin.com.

Fantastic Wisconsin museums are high on the list for the "Top 10 ways to Enjoy a Wisconsin Winter" located on the Wisconsin Department of Tourism website (www.travelwisconsin.com). These museums include: the Circus World Museum, located in Baraboo; the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, located in Manitowoc; and the National Railroad Museum, located in Green Bay. Milwaukee is the home of several museums on the list including the Milwaukee Public Museum where visitors can see and learn about a habitat of tropical butterflies. This city also offers fine art lovers the chance to visit the Milwaukee Art Museum. Collections in the museum include a variety of art dating from 1960.

A store, gallery, restaurant on the lake, and auditorium have recently added to the museum's design.

If the children are looking for a museum to explore in Milwaukee, take



them on a visit to the Betty Brinn Children's Museum. This children's museum is one of many in Wisconsin that offers kids exciting adventures. For a listing of additional children's and other museums in the state of Wisconsin visit the website www.museumstuff.com.

When looking for accessible accommodations in Wisconsin, hotels and motels are plentiful. However, do not forget the option of staying in a log cabin or bed and breakfast. The state offers log cabins in different park locations that provide indoor camping facilities for persons with disabilities. Check out some of Wisconsin's accessible accommodations on the Access-Able Travel Sources website: www.access-able.com.

For more Wisconsin travel information try the following resources:

Websites - www.wisconsin.gov --- www.wisconsin.com

Madison Convention and Visitor's Bureau - 800-373-6376 or www.visitmadison.com

Wisconsin Online, Inc. - 800-575-9781 or www.wisconline.com

To rent an accessible van from Wheelchair Getaways for your Wisconsin trip call (866) 748-3004.



Avoiding Holiday Hassle

Story provided by Adam Lloyd, Editor of
Gimp on the Go Newsletter



Venturing out for the holidays? More power to you; you're going to need it! Going on a trip at this time of year can be a huge hassle for the most hearty of travelers, let alone those with disabilities. High gas prices, overcrowded roads and planes, weather delays, striking airline workers and diminishing luggage allowances might just make you want to huddle up at home and hibernate. However, if you're like the 5 plus million of us who will be heading elsewhere to celebrate the season, you'll be happy to know that there are ways to help ensure the smoothest transit possible.

The first trick in minimizing your travel worries is to schedule your trip for the right day. Do not start your journey when everyone else does; stretching your vacation by half a day may cost you more time in the end. Rather than traveling on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and returning that Sunday, two of the busiest travel days all year, try going early Thursday morning and head home Saturday night. You may lose a few hours visiting with your family, but you'll save yourself many hours of aggravation in traffic or delayed flights. The same is true of Christmas; slide your holiday plans forward or back a day to avoid a travel crunch.

If you plan on flying, there are a few tricks to guard against the chances that your flight will be delayed or canceled. In general, nonstop flights cause the least problems. Connections, or even just lay-overs at an airport, can result in missed flights or your plane's getting caught in a morass of backed up flights. If you must take a flight that stops enroute, try to find one that goes to the least trafficked airport with the most temperate weather. Another tip is to get an early flight; the later in the day, the more chance that previous delays will impact the departure of your plane.

On the days you do travel, call the airline to check your flight's status, and make sure you arrive at the airport extra early. Flights are regularly over booked during the holidays and showing up early is your best defense against being bumped. Try checking your luggage curbside. Besides being quicker, the skycaps don't

work directly for the airlines and, with a nice tip, are often more willing to overlook bags which exceed the airline's weight limit. While making your reservation you should have alerted the airline to the nature of your disability and any assistance you'll require. Reconfirm this upon check in, along with a review of the equipment you use (wheelchair batteries which comply with flight regulations, service animals, oxygen, etc.) so that everyone is clear about the procedures well before boarding.

Airlines often cut carry-on limits to a single bag during the heavy holiday season. Equipment necessary for a disabled traveler does not count against this limit, nor the two checked bag limit. So, if you carry-on a bag of fragile components detached from your wheelchair, you are still entitled to another carry-on, despite the one bag rule.

If your flight is delayed, try to find out how long the delay will be so that you can make other arrangements if necessary. If worst comes to worst and your flight is canceled, or you miss your connection, airlines will rebook you on their next flight if space is available, or will refund your ticket. An option you can request, however, is for your airline to see if there is space on another airline's flight. If there is, they may then endorse your (non-electronic) ticket to be used on the other airline at no additional expense to you.

After reading all this, you may decide that flying during the holidays isn't for you. Depending on the length of your trip, you might want to look into traveling by train. Amtrak has made a concerted effort to accommodate disabled passengers, going so far as to offer a 15% discount to them and an accompanying passenger.

With regard to early arrival, off peak travel days, and prior notification of a disability, the same rules apply to both air and rail travel during the holidays. Although less popular than catching a plane, trains do fill up and delays aren't uncommon. However, the trade-off for the slower speed of travel is an often more comfortable trip.

Wheelchair users are able to remain in their chairs with ample seating spaces in coach and accessible overnight compartments. Unlike most planes, the bathrooms on Amtrak trains are accessible with grab bars and extra space. For those with non-mobility impairments, also provides TTY phone jacks, space for service animals,

continued in next column....

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special dietary requirements and allows users of oxygen to bring and use their own equipment - a far cry from airline policy.

Still, many, many Americans will choose to hit the pavement and drive to their holiday destination. Traffic this holiday season is expected to be at an all time high, or low depending on your perspective.

For those planning on braving the freeways, try to leave either very early or very late so as to avoid as much traffic as possible. Don't over pack your vehicle. The last thing you need on a long drive is an obscured view or cramped interior. Be sure to get plenty of sleep before you set out, map your route accurately, and set specific times or locations to stop and refresh yourself. You may also want to map some alternate routes in case you run into unexpected traffic or road closures. Additionally, it is a good idea to carry a cell phone for emergencies.

No matter what, if you're traveling for the holidays you are going to experience crowds and delays, but knowing what to expect and taking steps to insulate yourself from unnecessary problems can make all the difference between feasting on turkey and feeling like one.

NATIONWIDE LOCATIONS

CORPORATE	(800) 536-5518	LOUISIANA:	(800) 738-2634	OHIO:	(800) 398-5165
ARIZONA:	(888) 824-7413	MARYLAND: & Delaware	(800) 438-8465	OKLAHOMA:	(800) 689-0511
CALIFORNIA: Northern	(800) 638-1912	MASSACHUSETTS:	(800) 727-1656	PENNSYLVANIA:	(800) 221-6501
Los Angeles, Orange Co	(800) 659-1972	MICHIGAN:	(800) 887-7868	RHODE ISLAND:	(800) 727-1656
San Diego, Palm Springs	(877) 388-4883	MINNESOTA: & North & South Dakota	(888) 256-5807	SOUTH CAROLINA:	(866) 288-8118
COLORADO: & Cheyenne, WY	(800) 238-6920	MISSISSIPPI: (Gulf Coast)	(800) 738-2634	TENNESSEE: Eastern & Central	(888) 245-9944
CONNECTICUT:	(800) 228-0185	MISSOURI: & KS, IA, AR	(800) 781-0663	Western	(800) 781-0663
FLORIDA: Northern	(800) 637-7577	NEVADA:	(888) 824-7413	TEXAS:	
Central	(800) 242-4990	NEW ENGLAND: ME, NH, VT	(800) 727-1656	Dallas, Ft. Worth	(877) 688-4695
Southern	(800) 637-7577	NEW JERSEY: Northern NJ, NY City	(800) 344-5005	El Paso	(800) 408-2626
GEORGIA: & Birmingham, AL	(800) 554-6893	Central	(800) 221-0034	Houston, San Antonio, Austin	(866) 616-8267
HAWAII:	(800) 638-1912	South	(800) 221-6501	VIRGINIA: Central & Southern	(877) 271-9826
ILLINOIS: Chicago & Northern, IL	(800) 637-2597	NEW MEXICO:	(800) 408-2626	Northern Virginia	(800) 438-8465
Central & Southern	(800) 781-0663	NEW YORK: Long Island, NY City	(800) 379-3750	WASHINGTON, DC:	(800) 438-8465
INDIANA: Northern	(800) 826-9764	Rochester & Syracuse	(800) 924-8267	WASHINGTON:	(888) 376-1500
Central & Southern	(888) 468-9055	NORTH CAROLINA:	(800) 662-7572	WEST VIRGINIA:	(800) 221-6501
KENTUCKY:	(800) 458-1115			WISCONSIN:	(866) 748-3004

NATIONWIDE RENTAL INFORMATION:

(800) 642-2042

www.wheelchairgetaways.com

What do you want to read about?

Any neat attractions or events in your area? Need to know about some good day trips?

Let us know what accessible accommodations or attractions you want to read more about in the Wheelchair Getaways quarterly customer newsletter. Send any story ideas or suggestions to

corporate@wheelchairgetaways.com

or call us at

1-800-536-5518.

Spend Some Time in Tennessee

The Great Smoky and Cumberland Mountains provide a variety of views and activities for the Knoxville traveler. Many national and state parks surround the area and offer a wide range of camping and outdoor adventures. Other attractions include the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville Zoo, and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. If you are looking for more Tennessee sites to see, try taking a day trip to Dollywood, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Harrah's Casino, or the state capitol city of Nashville.

Nashville is a wonderful destination for all, especially country music fans. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, located downtown, opened in 2001. Hall of Famers include country music entertainers ranging from Roy Acuff to Dolly Parton to Faron Young. The museum, offers 40,000 square feet of exhibit space and is open daily from 10am-6pm. Live daily entertainment, a southern cuisine restaurant, and a souvenir shop also add to the features of the museum. Visit the website at www.halloffame.org or call 1-800-852-6437 for more information.

The Grand Ole Opry is also a "must see" in the city of Nashville. A weekend visit will offer a chance to see a performance from one of your favorite country stars. Check out the website www.opry.com to find upcoming events, such as the Opry's 77 Birthday Bash.

Taking a tour is another good way to see Nashville. The



Photograph provided by Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau

following are tour ideas for those traveling to the area:
Jack Daniels Distillery Tour-Visit the oldest distillery in the United States, over 125 yrs old. (www.jackdaniels.com)
Historic Mansions-Tour either the Belle Meade plantation (800-270-3991 www.bellemeadeplantation.com) or the Belmont Mansion (615-460-5459 www.belmontmansion.com)
The Hermitage-Take a look at the restored Mansion of President Andrew Jackson (615-889-2941 www.thehermitage.com)
General Jackson Riverboat-Experience the excellent food and entertainment of the riverboat. (615-871-6100 www.gaylordopryland.com/gen_jack.com)

More information on Tennessee attractions and events can be obtained by contacting one of the following organizations:
Knoxville Tour Alliance - www.goknox.com or 865-632-7372
Tennessee Department of Tourist Development - www.TNvacation.com or 1-800-GO-2-TENN
Nashville Chamber of Commerce - www.nashvillechamber.com or 615-743-3000.

Bob and Marie Maxon, owners of the Tennessee **Wheelchair Getaways** franchise, have locations near



Photograph provided by Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau

Knoxville and Nashville and will be happy to take care of your accessible van rental needs in central and eastern TN.

Please contact their office at 1-888-245-9944 or visit their website at

www.wheelchairgetaways.com. For national reservations information call 1-800-642-2042.

