

Tips for Chartering a Motorcoach

1. **Clearly spell out your schedule and what is involved in detail.**

The Department of Transportation has very strict rules that govern a driver's hours of service. We must adhere to them and they are not flexible. Please be sure to send a detailed itinerary to us a few days prior to your trips departure.

2. **How long the company has been in business.**

evity is not a guarantee of great service but is a good indicator.

Daisy Charters and Shuttles was started in 1980. In 1987 we purchased our first motorcoach and now we run a fleet of 23 late model Van Hool coaches.

3. **What is the company's DOT and DOD Safety rating?**

A satisfactory rating is standard for the DOT. Never charter from a company with an unsatisfactory rating. Call the Federal highway Administration's Office of Motor Carriers at 1-800-832-5660 or go to www.saferysys.org to verify a carrier's safety rating and the date it was last inspected.

The Department of Defense, the DOD, rates companies from 1 to 5 with a 1 being the highest rating and a 5 the lowest. The DOD inspection is quite thorough so any company with a rating of 1 is doing all things necessary to be safe. If a company does not have a DOD rating, it is likely they have not received any inspection in some time.

Daisy Charters and Shuttles has earned and maintained a 1 rating form the DOD since the beginning and we are very proud of it. In 1999 Daisy Charters and Shuttles was the first charter bus company to win the DOD's Military Traffic Management Command award for quality service. We have since won it two more times.

4. **Ask for References.**

Request and contact references from similar type groups traveling on similar type programs. Never charter from a company unwilling to provide references.

Please ask us for references. We would be happy to provide them.

5. **Ask the company's procedures for on-the-road emergencies.**

Daisy Charters and Shuttles has quarterly safety meetings throughout the year to review safety and emergency procedures. Additionally, we stay well connected with other operators throughout our region in case the need arises to get on the road help.

6. **Is the company available for inspection?**

You should inspect the motorcoach equipment, general offices and garage facilities before signing any contracts or agreements. You can tell a lot about a company just by looking.

Please feel free to stop by anytime. We are in the office 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

7. **Are the motorcoaches DVD and restroom equipped?**

For your convenience (and in some case sanity) all of our motorcoaches have a restroom, DVD player with monitors and overhead and underneath luggage storage.

8. **Who pays for the driver's hotel?**

Find out if the driver's room is included in the cost of the charter and if the driver must stay at the same hotel.

At Daisy we require the chartering party to reserve and pay for the driver's room on all overnight charters. For safety reasons we require a private room for each driver.

9. **What is included in the price you are quoted for a trip?**

Some companies will add a fuel charge or "environmental fee" to the cost of your trip when they bill you after the trip.

When you receive a quote/contract from Daisy the price at the bottom is complete the cost for the trip as described on the quote/contract. Additional charges will only appear if the charter runs over the agreed upon times or mileages.