



Are GMC buffalo buses hard to find?

Post by: suzanka

Buying a bus is still in the distant future for me. I want to make sure I save up enough to deal with the worst case scenarios when it comes to repairs. In the mean time I've been browsing, researching, and etc.

I really like the look of the GMC Buffalo's, especially the ones that still have the top and rear windows. I love the stylish side windows, too.

One thing I've noticed is that there are much fewer of the Buffalo's for sale than other GMC models. Is that because there were fewer made? Or was there some other problem with them that took them off the road?

Thanks!

Post by: richard5933

Welcome to the madness!

As an owner of a Buffalo, I agree with you about the look and style of these things. There were fewer Buffalo buses made than the 4106, but not that many fewer. Many of the parts are interchangeable between the various GM models, so those parts are pretty easy to find. There are still good parts sources, but there are of course some things that are pretty much made of unobtainium.

I can't say exactly why there are fewer for sale, although my first thought is that once someone gets one they simply don't want to let it go. There are still a good number of these available as seated coaches as well, so if you are planning to do this from scratch that's still an option. There was a 4905 that was sold in Texas last year in running condition for about \$5000. It would make a great conversion. That one sold on a government surplus site. Keep looking and don't forget the classified sections of the various bus conversion sites out there, including this one.

Post by: suzanka

Thank you Richard! Lol. I had that thought, too, that folks might not want to give them up. That's good news to hear that the parts are interchangeable.

Where can I find government surplus websites?
So far, I've been using a Craigslist aggregator that scours all of

the CL sites and Google searches of RV sites. I've been searching since last year, and I keep seeing the same ones over and over again or the ones that need too much work to function again.

I did see a great Buffalo sell on eBay for \$5,000 last month, seated and all original windows! So tempting. I would love to convert one from scratch, too. Just trying not to get in over my head until my pockets are deep enough to get me back out again.

Post by: buswarrior

Many, many busnut coaches are never posted for sale.

They trade within the community, or otherwise, have a list of unsolicited buyers that expressed interest in the past, before the sale was thought about.

Get out to the bus rallies, meet people, see coaches, leave your number in person.

Post by: pd4501-771

Please please please consider finding a conversion project. Zero sense in converting a seated coach, when so many older conversions are out there needing good homes (in my opinion). It would be nice if the few remaining could be preserved. Once they're all gone, that's it.

Post by: richard5933

The classified ads on this site are a great starting point. There are also ads on the other two bus conversion sites.

I also agree that talking to other bus nuts is the best way to find a good coach.

I actually found mine from a bus dealer on the east coast <https://www.busesforsale.com/>. There is also Jay Woods at <https://luxurycoachesfor.sale.com> His website usually lists the higher-end coaches, but it's worth calling him to see what he's got that's not online. Jay used to be connected with Custom Coach. I can't speak specifically for any coaches at either of these two places, but I do have knowledge of satisfied customers from both (myself included).

Government surplus can be found at:
<http://govdeals.com/>
<https://www.publicsurplus.com/>
<https://gsaauctions.gov/gsaauctions/gsaauctions/>

Usually lots of school and transit buses at these sites, but sometimes a coach from university or school system (or a bookmobile like right now.) Expect a lot of wear on these buses, and be prepared for anything.

All that said, I agree that almost every time someone is going to do better money wise buying a bus already converted. There are a number of them for sale right now in running condition on the three bus conversion sites that would cost far less than building one from scratch from a seated bus. However, if you've got the tools and ability to do things yourself and the desire to build from scratch it's an option.

Regardless of where you find your 'dream' bus, don't fall in love with it until someone inspects it that is knowledgeable and experienced with old buses. There is not much similar between buying a car and a bus, so you'll want to have the thing thoroughly examined. There is the potential for a good deal to quickly turn into a nightmare due to hidden rust, mechanical problems, etc.

Post by: chessie4905

