



Driving a Bus (Part 1 of 4) – Right Turns



By David Millhouser

Editor's Note: This article is part 1 of a 4 part series in which David Millhouser shares with us some simple tips and tricks you can use to make driving your bus safer.

I've always been cheap, and the opportunity to visit two European cities for \$500 was hard to resist. That was round trip airfare, lodging, ground transportation, and meals. No matter that the cities were Moscow and Leningrad... and it was Winter. What could go wrong? So, back in the 1970s when "detente" with the Soviet Union made it possible, my Dad and I leaped on a Pan Am 707 and headed East.

We got to our hotel... the nearly new Rossiya. For those of you less versed in the language, "nearly new" is Russian for "almost complete".

We wanted a drink and were told that the nearest available adult beverage was in the historic Metropole Hotel. While no taxis were available, "arrangements could be made". We wandered outside and were picked up by... a hearse.

The driver worked for a funeral home and moonlighted by transporting people around in a state-owned hearse. After a drive so long and convoluted that we thought we were in a spy movie...

he dropped us at the Metropole. A bit nervous about getting back to our hotel, we asked him to wait... and shaking his head, he nodded across Red Square... pointing to the Rossiya, which was visible only a few blocks away.

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