



Aimless Travels – A 2002 Thomas Saf-T-Liner



By Shelby Vertes

For me, the natural and realistic thing to do after you graduate from school was to get a full-time job with benefits, maybe a small apartment, and think about becoming a “real” adult, or at least whatever that was supposed to be.

Somehow, I just knew that path wasn't for me. After nearly 20 years as a competitive gymnast, I've developed a bit of a personality where I thrive on trying new things. While change isn't necessarily always the easiest for me, I love being able to grow, develop, and experience something worthwhile.

Which is why I didn't think twice about saying “yes” when David asked me, “Hey, do you want to convert a school bus with me and travel for a little bit?”

Unlike my situation, David had been working full-time at a 9-5 job since he graduated college. While he was always talented at what he did, he could never shake the feeling that working full-time for someone else just wasn't for him. He desperately wanted change and an opportunity for something different, so living the bus life sounded like the perfect way to do just that.

We had that conversation on his parent's couch in New Jersey in September of 2018. A few months later in November, we flew down to North Carolina to purchase our 2002 Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner, “Charlotte”. We completely fell in

love with the blue bus, its size, and the fact that it used to be used as a USAF transport vehicle down in Georgia for most of its life.

For ten long months, we converted the bus in our friend's backyard in Central New Jersey. We braved all of the weather including snowstorms and crazy heat waves. For a few months, we

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