

The Leader In Accessible Van Rentals

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Maui

A Visit to Paradise

Would you like to take a visit to paradise?

Experience the amazing scenery of elegant waterfalls, sparkling waters, lavish volcanoes, and rich mountains and valleys of the Hawaiian Islands.



photo provided by vHawaii.com

Maui, the Valley

Island, offers travelers a variety of scenery and activities as it provides the best weather of all the tropical Hawaiian Islands.

When traveling to the island be sure to explore its landscape with a drive down The Road to Hana or a visit to the IAO Valley State Park. Also, take time to shop or dine in the quaint village of Lahaina. The Old Lahaina Luau (800-248-5828) and Maui Ocean Center - "Hawaiian Aquarium" (808-270-7000) offers tourists an exciting cultural experience. Packages are available at the Maui Ocean Center, which include a visit to the aquarium in addition to a snorkeling cruise, island tour, or luau. Additional ideas for seeing Maui sites include an accessible Sugar Cane Train (808-661-0089) or Blue Hawaiian Helicopter (808-871-8844) ride.

With great and convenient shopping and restaurants, Kaanapali Beach is a popular place to stay on the island of Maui. Accessible accommo-

dations include: Maui Marriott (800-228-9290), The Westin Maui (800-228-3000), Sheraton Maui (800-782-9488), Hyatt Regency Maui (800-233-1234), and the Kaanapali Beach Hotel (800-262-8450). If a little more paradise privacy is what you desire, visit the



Photograph by
Bob and Sandra Swanson

following website that provides accessible condo information: www.mauiaccessiblecondo.com. This website also gives information on Maui accessible adventures, tours, and support services.

For the freedom and independence of traveling on the Island of Maui, rent a wheelchair accessible van from Wheelchair Getaways.

Contact the Maui location today at 1-800-638-1912 for your no-hassle rental reservations. National rental information can be obtained by calling 1-800-642-2042 or visiting the



Wheelchair Getaways of Hawaii

corporate website at www.wheelchairgetaways.com.

The following resources will provide travel information on Maui and Hawaii:

- Maui Tourist Bureau - (808) 244-3530
- Hawaii Center for Independent Living - (808) 522-5400
- Hawaii Visitor and Convention Bureau - www.gohawaii.com
- Aloha Guide to Accessibility - (808) 586-8121 or www.hawaii.gov/health
- Hawaii Official Home Page - www.state.hi.us

Educating the Consumer

Traveling by air with a power chair

Article written by: Emily Gillespie and Nancy Whaley, Pennsylvania Franchisee

This and upcoming newsletters will include a series of articles on "Educating the Consumer," an idea originated by Nancy Whaley, the Wheelchair Getaways Pennsylvania franchise owner. Each month, a topic will be featured in this column that will "educate the consumer" on different aspects of the disabled community. The topic for this issue is traveling by air with a power chair. We are hopeful the following suggestions will help to make your flight a pleasant one.

Airlines are now required to allow and assist persons with disabilities to travel by air with a power chair or scooter. Wheelchair users, however, must adhere to the regulations set by the Federal Aviation Administration. For specifics on these regulations, contact the airline of your choice. Traveling with a dry-cell or gel-filled battery is essential. Airlines require a battery not filled with acid or water to prevent spilling or leaking that may compromise the safety of the airplane. A written statement may be obtained from the business where the battery was purchased stating it is safe for air travel. This procedure is not necessary, but is a helpful backup to present to airline employees when traveling with a power chair.

When making a flight reservation, be sure to inform the reservation specialist that you will be flying with a power chair. This information will allow them to schedule a plane that can accommodate your chair. The airline should also comply with your request to keep your power chair to transport you down the jet way rather than transferring to an airport chair. After reaching the aircraft, you will be assisted into an aisle or straight-back chair. Requesting an aisle seat with a drop down armrest is a good idea. If this seat is available, it will allow for easier transfers. Attendants will be happy to assist in making the traveler as comfortable as possible. Let them know what is the most comfortable and

effective way for you to be transferred and what, if any, pillows or supports are necessary during the flight for stability and comfort.

Two suggestions to minimize possible chair damages are to disengage the clutches on the power chair and to remove the joystick. Disengaging the clutches allows the person moving your chair to push it manually so you do not have to worry about it being operated improperly. Make sure, however, the attendant is shown how to engage the clutches so the power chair will remain stationary when it reaches its destination and is ready to be stored. If there is concern about damage to the joystick, remove the control and carry it with you on the plane.

Prior to and during the flight, limit fluid intake, as using the restroom on a plane can be extremely difficult. If you have a flight transfer, be sure to tell the attendant that you need to have your chair at the airport. This process will give you independence at the airport and allow a trip to the restroom before meeting your flight. Also, when possible, try to schedule a flight with adequate time to transfer between connecting flights.

After arriving at the destination, inspect your chair carefully in the extraordinary event of damage occurring during the flight. If damage has taken place, report it to the baggage claim office immediately. The airline is responsible for safe transport of your chair.

Do not hesitate to travel with a power chair. Maintain your independence and rest assured the airlines must always allow travelers the option of flying with a power chair.

For more information on specific airline traveling information contact the airline with whom you will be making reservations. Two websites that can provide additional traveling information is www.access-able.com and www.ican.com.

When you reach your destination, Wheelchair Getaways can have a wheelchair accessible van waiting for you. Be sure to make your reservations prior to the flight. Call 1-800-642-2042 for rental information on the Wheelchair Getaways nearest you.

Las Vegas - Conventions and More

Although most people know Las Vegas is a gambler's paradise, many people do not realize the diversity and magnitude of conventions that are held in Sin City every year. With the combination of 24-hour entertainment, hotel accommodations, and convention hall space, Las Vegas represents the perfect environment for thousands of conventions each year. Whether you are interested in professional development or are an avid hobbyist, there is no doubt that there is a convention in Las Vegas that you will find enjoyable.

For example, plan a trip for the end of March and attend a Travel Goods Show (<http://travel-goods.org>). This expo is one of the 200 largest tradeshows in the U.S. and has items such as: luggage, backpacks, computer cases, travel accessories, clothing, books, maps, and much more! Schedules of the conventions for the year can be found on the following websites:

www.lasvegas24hours.com
www.unlv.edu/Tourism/lvc.html
www.aglitter.com

Although the Las Vegas Convention Center (702-892-0711) hosts many conventions, almost every casino along the strip has convention space. Not to mention Cox Pavilion (702-895-0992) and the nearby Henderson Convention Center (702-565-2171).

Other resources for help planning a Vegas convention are The Las Vegas Tourist Bureau (1-800-777-NEWS or www.lasvegasleisureguide.com) and <http://lasvegas.conventioncenterhotelsguide.com>.

Wheelchair Getaways can also help with traveling plans by taking care of your accessible transportation needs. Renting a van will give you the freedom to take a day trip between seminars. Some of the more popular day trips from Vegas include visiting Lake Mead, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Red Rock, and Death Valley. To obtain information on day trips from the Las Vegas area visit <http://www.reviewjournal.com/travel/daytrips.html> or contact the Nevada Commission on Tourism at 1-800-NEVADA-8. To find out more about renting a Wheelchair Getaways accessible van during your next business or convention trip to the Las Vegas area, call 1-888-824-7413.

Chef Jock of Tennessee

Written by Bob Maxon, owner of the Eastern and Central Tennessee franchise location

Chef Jock is the better-known name of restaurateur and Knoxville local TV personality Giacomo Lijoi. He was voted #1 Best Chef of East Tennessee by the Knoxville News Sentinel. A car accident left him a quadriplegic in 2001 and although this "Chef of the Year" does not cook anymore, he continues to oversee the restaurant. He remains positive about Tastebuds Café and says business is good.

Tastebuds Café is located in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The restaurant serves Italian, French and American Cuisine and was voted Best Restaurant of the Year in a regional contest. Chef Jock has also produced a cookbook titled Chef Jock's Tastebud Delight Cookbook. For more information on his restaurant or to order a cookbook visit

www.chefjocks.com or www.tastebudscafe.com.

Although Chef Jock feels that he will face some tough challenges in the future, he is dedi-

cated to achieving his goals. With his new situation, Chef Jock feels that God is leading him in a new direction. Doctors are amazed by Chef Jock's strength and want to study what makes his body so strong. Chef Jock has agreed to the testing and will become a test subject at a Miami paralysis clinic in January. He also plans to step up his involvement with the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and become a vocal advocate of stem cell research.

Chef Jock and his wife Melanie, a professional photographer, became familiar with Wheelchair Getaways during his rehabilitation. The couple would rent a wheelchair accessible van for occasional trips home to Sevierville from the Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center in Knoxville, TN. Upon his release, the couple rented a van for an extended period and eventually purchased the van from Wheelchair Getaways.

The Eastern and Central Tennessee franchise can be contacted at 1-888-245-9944. Tastebuds Café can be contacted at (865) 428-9781.



picture from the website: www.chefjocks.com