Tough, reliable, innovative...

Hard to break. Easy to fix.

We're not going to promise you that the Minotour will never require service. Your school demands a lot from its fleet, and after thousands of miles and hundreds of hours, even a high-performing Thomas Built Bus is going to need a little care and maintenance. We do promise that when you buy a Minotour, you're getting a bus that’s durable, reliable and, when the time comes, easy to repair. Built on either a GM or Ford chassis, the Minotour can consistently be serviced at your local GM or Ford dealer. In addition, Thomas has factory-trained service personnel in every state and province to help you maintain the bus body, which gives us one of the most extensive customer service networks in North America.
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The Minotour has a wide center aisle, high headroom and a full-height entrance door. (just don’t call it small).
Once again, we’ve built the toughest Type A bus on the market.

And this should come as no surprise. Since 1936, Thomas has been designing the toughest and most reliable school buses in North America. That’s a long time to be the benchmark in an industry as important as ours, and this proud tradition of innovative engineering isn’t a coincidence. Decade after decade, our company has followed one simple philosophy: design and build the kind of school bus that we’d want our own children to ride in every day. It’s a simple idea and it works. Today, one out of every three kids who takes the bus to school rides a Thomas.

Bumper-to-bumper protection for the people that matter most: your passengers.

The Minotour® may be the smallest bus we make, but don’t be fooled by its size. Into 20’ feet of compact maneuverability, we’ve packed all the safety features and rugged engineering of our bigger bus. From one bumper to the other, the Minotour doesn’t just meet the requisite Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), it exceeds them. At Thomas, we’re our own toughest critics. Our bus components must first pass through the rigors of our test lab and the durability track. So when we talk about how strong and reliable our buses are, we know what we’re talking about.

Our Type A bus begins with a dependable GM or Ford chassis, on which we build our unique steel cage body. Our engineers know school bus cargo is precious, so they designed a rugged framework of one-piece, skirt-to-skirt roof bows and heavy-duty crash rails built to withstand the rigors of everyday use. Once this steel cage is in place, we fasten the 16-gauge aluminum side panels and continuous roof sections. Besides adding to the structural integrity of the Minotour, single roof sheets from side to side mean fewer rivets. And fewer rivets mean fewer potential leak paths.

* Model DRW measured bumper to bumper
Engineered to be the best bus you’ll ever buy.

Because the little things make a big difference.

We wanted the Minotour to be the best Type A bus on the road, but we also wanted it to be the most innovative. So we asked our customers about the kind of features they would like to find in their next Type A bus. After talking to large school districts and experienced drivers, we designed a bus that was not only safe, but easy to maintain, comfortable to drive and durable enough to withstand the rigors of everyday use.

From a comfortable, adjustable seat, the driver has a commanding view, including a 306 square inch visibility panel forward of the entrance door. Adding our optional Child Minder ensures that the driver won’t leave a child behind on the bus. Easy-to-read instrument panels and responsive handling make the Minotour a pleasure to drive, and its durable rubber floor covering, together with mar-proof Galvalume interior walls, helps keep this bus clean and corrosion resistant for years to come.

The electrical system was designed with your convenience in mind. Removable panels and printed circuit boards located above the driver’s seat provide quick and easy access to the LED diagnostics and circuit breakers, electrical components and wiring. The lights in our highly visible eight-light warning system are recessed to resist impact from rocks and other hazards.

For passengers, a full-height outward opening entrance door and a padded door header make for easy coming and going. A spacious center aisle and a wide variety of seating configurations provide ample room, and a quickly accessed emergency door provides an easy exit.

It only looks small from the outside.

From the inside, however, the Minotour provides comfortable, spacious seating for up to 30 passengers. When designing the frame of this bus, our primary considerations were strength and durability, but we also wanted to provide as much extra room as possible. With optional track seating, the floor plan can easily be adapted to suit your changing needs. Passenger seats can be quickly removed to allow for additional wheelchair securements.
Safety’s not an option, but nearly everything else is.

The Minotour comes standard with all the safety features, years of reliability and high level of innovation you would expect from a company like Thomas Built. Beyond that, you have some options: a gas engine or diesel, single or dual rear wheel, air conditioning, interior book racks, stereo systems and wheelchair lifts, to name a few. And we offer custom floor plans that accommodate everything from six wheelchairs to seating for up to 30 passengers. Each Minotour is designed and built to meet your unique set of requirements.

Schools across the country choose the Minotour for good reason. It’s the smartest way to carry precious cargo. And, as the toughest Type A vehicle in the market, the Minotour has become the leading choice in small bus transportation for institutions that need to provide safe, reliable transportation.
STANDARD FEATURES

• Walk-in entrance door with 2 steps and handrail
• Wide center aisle
• One-piece roof bow, skirt to skirt
• Roof crash rails concealed between roof sheet and interior sheet
• Steel structure with aluminum skin [14K EL = steel skin]
• One-piece Saf-T-Vue window
• 12-gauge or 3/16” concave rear bumper
• Rear emergency door with lower glass
• One-piece composite front and rear caps for better appearance and aerodynamics
• Modular electrical system with circuit breakers and LED diagnostics
• Mar-proof interior walls

Don’t forget the bells and whistles.

OPTIONAL FEATURES

Optional radio with cassette or CD player

Optional acoustic tile headliner reduces interior noise

Optional rear air conditioning unit; recessed model shown here

Optional seats with 3-point passenger seat belts

Optional seats available with integrated toddler restraint

Optional split seats with arm rests
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