

The Essential Guide to Desert Bus for Android

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Chapter 1. Desert Bus for Android

The video game Desert Bus has been described as, "the most realistic verisimilitude reality game ever created."

Originally a minigame for the unreleased *Penn and Teller's Smoke and Mirrors* for the short-lived Sega CD, Desert Bus simulates a bus' drive between Tucson, Arizona and Las Vegas, Nevada in real time. Players are awarded one point for completing the eight hour trip, during which time the maximum speed of the bus is 45 mph. At the completion of the trip, they are given several seconds to decide whether or not they would like to continue playing, attempting the trip back for an additional point.

The game cannot be paused. If the bus veers off the road at any point, a tow truck will come to bring the vehicle back to the city of departure, also in real time, and then the game is over.

When the original game developer went of business before the title was officially released to the public, the game was temporarily lost. However, in 2005, a promotional copy began being circulated on the world wide web, leading to Desert Bus gaining a cult following.

Rights to the game were eventually purchased by the developer Amateur Pixels and a mobile version was released on all platforms. Today, the game costs \$0.99 to download. All proceeds go to charity.

It is widely agreed upon by experts that Desert Bus is the greatest video game ever created.

Chapter 2. Playing Desert Bus for Android

Once the Desert Bus app is downloaded onto your phone, you are ready to begin playing the game.

To play Desert Bus:

1. Open the app. The game will open horizontally on your screen.
2. Tap your screen once to move past each of the introductory images.
3. The bus will take a moment to start. Once it does, tap your screen to begin your drive.
4. To accelerate, tap the screen once again and hold. Your finger on the screen will serve as your foot on the gas pedal throughout the duration of your drive.



5. To steer, simply tilt your phone to the right or left.
6. Focus! Without an alert driver, the bus will veer constantly to the right.

Related tasks

- [Completing the Game \(page 3\)](#)

Chapter 3. Completing the Game

Once you understand the gameplay, you are set up for hours and hours of fun. However, you may be wondering just when and how the game reaches its end.

Players reach the conclusion of Desert Bus in one of two ways:

- At the completion of one leg of the trip between Tucson, AZ and Las Vegas, NV, for which players receive one point, they are prompted to decide whether or not they would like to attempt the trip back for an additional point. Theoretically, these trips back and forth, and the awarded points for completing them, can continue until the end of time. If a player elects not to continue, or does not elect to continue within a several second window, the game is over and a screen will appear displaying the players' total points earned.
- If the bus veers off the road at any point during play, it will remain stuck there until a tow truck arrives to bring it back to the destination from which it left. When the tow truck arrives back at this destination, the game is over and a screen will appear displaying the players' total points earned (a point will **not** be awarded for the uncompleted trip).

Chapter 4. Features

This reference page details some of the additional exciting features of Desert Bus for Android.

Horn

You may beep the horn of the bus at any time during your drive by tapping the center of the steering wheel.

Rearview Mirror

To view what is going on in the back of the bus, see the rearview mirror in the top right of your screen. **Note:** nothing is ever going on in the back of the bus.

Clock

To view the time of day, see the real time clock in the bottom right corner of your screen.