Free Bus API for Multi-Country Travel Applications

This document describes a free and practical Bus API solution suitable for travel agency web applications and websites. The focus is on coverage across multiple countries including India, Singapore, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka, using open and legally accessible public transport data.

Recommended Free Bus API: TransitLand

TransitLand is an open, global transit data aggregation platform that collects GTFS and GTFS-Realtime feeds from public transport agencies worldwide. It provides access to bus routes, stops, schedules, and in some regions real-time vehicle data.

Why TransitLand is Suitable for Travel Agency Applications

- Free and open access with no mandatory subscription
- Global coverage based on available public transport feeds
- Standardized GTFS-based data structure
- REST API with JSON responses
- Suitable for route search, schedule lookup, and journey planning

Country Coverage Overview

Country	Availability via TransitLand	Notes
India	Partial	Depends on city-level GTFS availability
Singapore	Partial	Some public transport feeds available
Malaysia	Good	GTFS data published by government portals
Sri Lanka	Limited	Open transport data availability is low

API Usage Overview

Base API Endpoint:
https://transit.land/api/v2/rest/

Commonly used endpoints include networks, operators, stops-for-location, routes-for-stop, and trips-for-route. These endpoints allow travel applications to build bus search, availability checks, and journey planning features.

Limitations

TransitLand does not provide ticket booking or fare payment functionality. The availability of data depends entirely on whether local transport agencies publish GTFS feeds. Private intercity bus operators generally do not provide free APIs.

Conclusion

For travel agency websites and academic projects requiring a free bus API across multiple countries, TransitLand is currently the most practical and legally safe solution. It enables schedule-based bus availability and route discovery, and can be integrated into real-time web applications when combined with mapping and routing services.