



Revealing "Great Connections" Contest Winner #2

Our 2024 essay contest asked folks to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a person, place, or adventure dear to their hearts. It features a \$500 gift card Top Prize and five \$100 gift card runner-up prizes. With more than 200 entries received, our judges—Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants—found it challenging to select the winners. But we finally did, based on which essays best fit the contest theme. (You can read about our first runner-up winner [here](#). Note that each winner is notified in the month their entry is to be published.)



This month, we're happy to announce that our second runner-up winner is **Imane E.** of Lansing, Mich. When she was researching best universities and colleges from her home in Casablanca, Morocco, Imane landed on Michigan State University. "I wanted to study political science at a public university where the cost would be more affordable," she says.

Imane has since graduated and now works for a tech company. During her years here, she's found herself delighted by the changing seasons and the splendors of our Great Lakes State. She's also been surprised by its people: "Everyone is so friendly. They

always say 'Hi,' and 'How are you doing?' They're extremely welcoming. It's pretty impressive."

The research that brought her to Michigan also led her to Michigan Flyer as a connection between Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and East Lansing. "Where I'm from, public transportation is extremely crowded. The Flyer is so accessible and comfortable. And it has great features like Wi-Fi," she says.

Imane continues to rely on the Flyer for transport to DTW enroute to Casablanca and back again. She entered our contest with few expectations, just wanting to describe her unique experience. "I read other winning entries and didn't expect mine to win," she says. "I was so surprised and happy that it did!"

An Unforgettable "Welcome to Your New Home"

By Imane E.

"Landing at the Detroit McNamara Terminal, I found myself engulfed in an atmosphere so vastly different from the familiar streets of Casablanca. The hustle and bustle, the myriad languages swirling around me, it was all so overwhelming. My heart raced with a blend of exhilaration and nervousness as I faced the prospect of my journey to Lansing. This was not just a mere relocation; it was a leap into an entirely new chapter of my life. The vehicle that would carry me to my new beginning was the Michigan Flyer. The driver's welcoming nod and the warmth of his smile cut through my apprehension. As the bus wound its way out of Detroit, the driver, perhaps sensing my inner turmoil, began to share stories of the landscapes we passed. His voice, rich with the pride of a local, painted pictures of Michigan's history, its people, and the beauty of its changing seasons. His depiction of Lansing transformed it in my mind from a mere destination to a place of promise and potential. Upon our arrival in Lansing, the driver's parting words, "Welcome to your new home," struck a chord deep within me. In that moment, those words felt as though they were not just a greeting, but a benediction. I stepped off the Michigan Flyer not just as a newcomer to America but as someone who had been embraced by its spirit, thanks to the kindness of a stranger who felt like a friend."



Travel Alerts

Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center Bypassed on U-M Football Saturdays

If you're planning a Saturday trip with Michigan Flyer between Ann Arbor and East Lansing or Detroit Metro Airport this fall, please know that on U-M home football game Saturdays some of our runs will bypass the BTC on the way to and from the airport. This will affect certain runs before, during, and after the following home games:

Aug. 31, Fresno State, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 7, Texas, Noon

Sept. 14, Arkansas, Noon

Sept. 21, USC, 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 28, Minnesota, TBA

Oct. 26, Michigan State, TBA

Nov. 2, Oregon, TBA

Nov. 23, Northwestern, TBA

Please note that **other** Michigan Flyer runs will continue to stop at the BTC on these days. It's easy to find out which ones: Just check the "Book a Trip" feature on our [website](#).

Delta Air Lines to Launch Seasonal Detroit-Bahamas Route



Discontinued four years ago due to COVID-19, Delta resumes nonstop service between DTW and Nassau—one of the most popular Caribbean destinations—on Dec. 21. The flights to and from Lynden Pindling International Airport (NAS) are available each Saturday until April 12, 2025, and can be booked now on [Delta's website](#).

The outgoing flight is scheduled to leave DTW at 8:30 a.m. and arrive at NAS at 11:54 a.m. The return departs NAS at 1:14 p.m. and arrives in Detroit at 4:35 p.m. When we last checked, the roundtrip fare for main cabin seating was \$1,296.

DTW to Add New Shops, Restaurants and Video Game Lounges

Beginning in 2025, the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport will host these 12 new retail shops: 313 Exchange, Corktown Place, Detroit-VS-Everybody, Eastside Golf, Fuel Travel Shop, Hip & Humble, iStore Express, Johnston & Murphy, Michigan Makers, Motor City Essentials, and Motown Greatest Hits Travel Shop.

Six new restaurants will also be introduced in the McNamara Terminal next year—7greens, Born in Detroit Kitchen, Cask & Craft Local Spirits, Dylan's Candy Bar, Dunkin' and Wahlburgers—plus two Gameway Lounges. For brief descriptions of all these new businesses, click [here](#) or [here](#).

Delta Extends Free WiFi to International Flights



Delta Air Lines has begun offering fast, free Wi-Fi on long-haul international routes, with most transatlantic flights expected to have it by end of summer. Already, free streaming-quality connectivity is available on nearly 700 Delta aircraft, representing more than 90 percent of Delta's domestic mainline fleet. The vast majority of passengers should have access by year's end.

Barcelona Pulls In the Welcome Mat

In case you missed it, [CNN reported last month](#) that nearly 3,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Barcelona, Spain, to protest "over-tourism." Shouting "Visitors go home!" and squirting tourists with water pistols, they were reportedly upset by the adverse impact of mass tourism on the local cost of living and quality of life. More than 20 million tourists visit Barcelona each year.

In July 2023, the U.S. State Department issued a [Level 2 Travel Advisory for Spain](#)—meaning "exercise increased caution"—due to terrorism and civil unrest. Whether you're traveling to Spain or any other foreign country, it's wise to sign up for the department's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). Through U.S. Embassies, STEP can inform you about safety conditions in your destination country, as well as contact you in the event of a natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.

D2A2's "Midnight Summer Run" Ends After Labor Day Weekend

The popular [D2A2 Express Bus](#), which makes frequent daily runs between Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) and Detroit's Grand Circus Park, will soon end the extra "midnight summer run" from Detroit to Ann Arbor that began on Memorial Day weekend. After Labor Day weekend, D2A2 will return to its normal schedule, with the last daily run to Ann Arbor boarding in Detroit at 11 p.m.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST



East Lansing **Michigan BluesFest**

Enjoy a weekend of energy, excitement, music and coming together again as a community on Turner St. and Cesar Chavez Ave. in Lansing's Old Town. There are four venues this year: the open-air South and North Turner Street Stages, the River Stage (premier seats) and the Afterglow Stage indoors at UrbanBeat. As you can see from the [schedule](#), there will be nearly two dozen performers, most appearing on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 20 and 21, when [general admission is FREE](#).

Note that Old Town's designation as a Social District means festivalgoers can consume appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from UrbanBeat and other bars and restaurants while on the street and taking in all that BluesFest has to offer.

You can get to Old Town from Michigan Flyer's location at the East Lansing Marriott in about 45 minutes on CATA buses (see [CATA's trip planner](#) to pick your route). Or, you can get there in roughly 12 minutes by car or Uber.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar: lansing.org/events.

Brighton **Smokin' Jazz & BBQ** **Blues Festival**

Head to Main St. in downtown Brighton for barbeque made by some of the best pitmasters—smoked ribs, pulled pork, beef brisket, pork tenderloin, specialty mac n' cheese, etc.—plus Michigan-based arts and crafts vendors, live music, and more. It all happens on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5 p.m. to 9

p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 7, from noon to 10 p.m.



Just off Main St., visit the beer and music tent where you can dance the night away, too. Friday evening features performances by the Sean Dobbins Quintet, The Brothers Groove, Brett Lucas Band, and Thornetta Davis. On Saturday, it's the Alex Anest Organ Trio, Lexie Blue, Big B & The Actual Proof, and the Nick Moss Band. There's no charge for strolling on Main St. The music venue/beer tent has a [\\$7 fee](#) or \$5 in advance online.

Brighton, like other communities in Livingston County, offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar: visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/.

Ann Arbor **a2Tech360**

Ann Arbor's tech week—dubbed a2Tech360—celebrates the spirit of innovation through experiences, conversations, and connections that strengthen and expand the region's vibrant ecosystem. Events are tailored to a variety of interests and audiences, including entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, businesses, academic institutions, non-profits, job seekers, and the general public.



Presented by [Ann Arbor SPARK](#), this year's a2Tech360 signature events include: Invest 360 Investor Showcase, Fast Track, Ann Arbor Mobility Summit, Sustainable Future

Forum, Tech Talk, Women in Tech, Michigan Startup Capital Summit, and Tech Trek. Times and venues vary. Click [here](#) to see the entire lineup. [Ticket prices range from free to \\$125 per event.](#)

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: annarbor.org/events/.



photo credit: Rachel Kaplan of iHeartRadio

Detroit **USHER—Past, Present, Future**

Multi-platinum, 8-time Grammy Award®-winning global entertainment icon Usher is bringing his smooth R&B tracks and slick dance moves to Little Caesars Arena on Thursday, Sept. 12, and Friday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m. He'll be performing songs from his storied 30-year career, as well as from his new album, "Coming Home." [Tickets \\$220-\\$1,650.](#)

Beyond selling over 80 million records worldwide and collecting dozens of music awards, Usher has lit up the small screen on NBC's The Voice and the big screen in films such as Hustlers. He has also distinguished himself as a humanitarian.

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area riders to and from this event. Little Caesars Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.

To learn more about what's happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: visitdetroit.com/events/.

Sample Airfares for International Autumn Escapes



Our focus this month is on international getaways. Using www.Skyscanner.com, we sampled trips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Saturday, Oct. 12, and returning on Wednesday, Oct. 23. Among the criteria used for our spot check: Flights had to make no more than one stop or plane change in each direction, any layover between flights had to be fairly brief, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing. The following economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras." Fares with asterisks * indicate nonstop flights.

Vancouver, CAN (YVR) WestJet **\$212***
San Juan, PRI (SJU) Spirit **\$214**
Cancun, MEX (CUN) Spirit **\$316**
Toronto, CAN (YYZ) Air Canada **\$402***
Montreal, CAN (YUL) WestJet **\$479***
Kingston, JAM (KIN) Delta **\$590**
Reykjavik, ISL (KEF) IcelandAir **\$599**
Stockholm, SWE (ARN) KLM/Delta **\$654**
Geneva, CHE (GVA) Lufthansa **\$661**
Luxembourg, LUX (LUX) Lufthansa **\$674**
Brussels, BEL (BRU) Air Canada + Lufthansa **\$675**
Nassau, BHS (NAS) American **\$676**
Naples, ITA (NAP) Turkish **\$683**
Bucharest, ROU (OTP) Air France + KLM **\$702**
Oslo, NOR (OSL) Air France + KLM **\$719**
Frankfurt, DEU (FRA) Lufthansa **\$736***
Madrid, ESP (MAD) American **\$736**
Dublin, IRL (DUB) American **\$737**
San Jose, CRI (SJO) American **\$770**

Warsaw, POL (WAW) Delta **\$770**
Helsinki, FIN (HEL) Delta **\$773**
Paris, FRA (CDG) Air France **\$779**
Rome, ITA (FCO) United **\$793**
Berlin, DEU (BER) Delta, KLM & More **\$812**
London, GBR (LHR) Delta or Virgin Atlantic **\$830**
Glasgow, GBR (GLA) Lufthansa **\$833**
Amsterdam, NLD (AMS) Delta, KLM & More **\$836***
New Delhi, IND (DEL) Turkish **\$859**
Athens, GRC (ATH) Turkish **\$915**
Lima, PER (LIM) American **\$917**
Santiago, CHL (SCL) Delta or LATAM **\$922**
Lisbon, PRT (LIS) Delta **\$934**
Singapore, SGP (SIN) Turkish **\$1,256**
Tokyo, JPN (HND) Delta **\$1,300***
Buenos Aires, ARG (EZE) United **\$1,555**
Manila, PHI (MNL) Korean Air **\$1,747**
Sydney, AUS (SYD) Delta **\$1,815**



Catch a Bus to ArtPrize® In Grand Rapids

Indian Trails, our parent company, makes it easy to plan an “art immersion weekend.” [ArtPrize](#)—which takes place between Sept. 13 and Sept. 28 this year—is an international competition featuring nearly 1,500 works of art at 175 venues throughout downtown Grand Rapids—museums, bars, parks, restaurants, theaters, hotels, bridges, vacant storefronts, office spaces and more.



Artists from across the U.S. and around the globe will be showing a wide range of creative work—from paintings and sculpture to music and performance art—and competing for more than \$400,000 in prizes—\$200,000 of which is decided by public vote, \$200,000 by art experts. For the public, it’s totally free.

With Indian Trails’ daily, scheduled routes, it’s just a relaxing, affordable motorcoach ride from locations all across Michigan. For example, for \$30 roundtrip (plus \$4 fee each way), you could leave from East Lansing’s Intermodal Terminal at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, arriving at the Rapid Central Station in Grand Rapids at 2:30 p.m. After an art-filled weekend, you could then catch a return coach on Monday at 12:05 p.m., arriving back in East Lansing at 1:35 p.m. [Check Indian Trails ticket prices and schedules here.](#)

While soaking up the artwork all weekend, you could stay at one of Grand Rapids’ fine downtown hotels and get around by free DASH downtown shuttle, [The Rapid bus system](#), or by Lime E-Scooter or E-Bike. [More info here.](#) Also, check out the Grand Rapids [experience guides](#) to help plan your trip. You may even want to stay long enough to explore the exhibits at the [Grand Rapids Art Museum](#), [Grand Rapids Children’s Museum](#), [Grand Rapids Public Museum](#) and [Grand Rapids African Museum & Archives](#).





Tips for Smarter Travel

Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this [Link](#)

Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Just visit one of these websites to write a quick review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!

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Customer Comment

"Fast, friendly, easy transport from Ann Arbor to DTW. Bus is on time, clean, relaxing and inexpensive transport. Easy to switch from one reservation to another."

—Kathy, Ann Arbor, Mich.



Happy Labor Day & Welcome Back Students!

On Monday, Sept. 2, we celebrate the 130th Labor Day, which honors the enormous contributions of workers to the strength and prosperity of America.

The first labor parade was organized by New York City unions in 1882. More than 10,000 workers marched, though it cost most of them a day's pay. Back then, the average worker toiled for 12 hours a day—seven days a week—just to earn a meager

living. In many states, children as young as five worked in mills, factories and mines for even lower wages.

In 1894, Congress established Labor Day as a federal holiday to be celebrated on the first Monday of September. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. The eight-hour workday was established with passage of the Adamson Act in 1916.

Whether you celebrate Labor Day with a parade, cookout, picnic, fireworks, or long weekend at the beach, enjoy the rest of summer! Astronomically speaking, the first day of fall arrives on Sunday, Sept. 22—the Autumn Equinox. This is when the Sun crosses the Equator, and those of us in the Northern Hemisphere begin to see more darkness than daylight.



Finally, all of us at [Michigan Flyer](#), [D2A2](#) and [Detroit Air Xpress](#) offer a very warm welcome back to the students, faculty and staff of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan! We missed you, and we're here to assist with your travel needs.

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, click [here](#) to view schedules.



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www.michiganflyer.com

