



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

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“Great Connections” Contest 3.0

Tell a Short Story, Win a Big Prize!

Twice before we invited Michigan Flyer passengers to enter our “Great Connections” essay contest—and were surprised, delighted, and moved by many of the short stories submitted. So, we’d love to hear more from you in contest version 3.0!

To enter, just tell a great—but true—story about how Michigan Flyer-AirRide helped to connect you with a special person, place, or adventure. You could win the \$500 gift card Top Prize, or one of five \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes! Plus, all winners will have their stories and photos published in our E-news for the enjoyment of fellow passengers.

It doesn’t get much easier: Submit your story of up to 250 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) between now and April 22, 2022. We’ll notify the winners sometime after that by phone or email. Entries will be judged by Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants, based on

their judgment of which stories best fit the contest theme. Good luck!



Meet Driver Jim Hill

In 2010, Jim Hill was scheduled to make his first solo run to Chicago as an Indian Trails' driver, but instead decided to ask if a veteran driver could ride along.

"It wasn't so much nerves, but more about not wanting to make a mistake in getting around Chicago," he recalls. "The beauty of the Indian Trails driver training program is that they encourage you to take another training run with an experienced driver if you're not feeling totally comfortable."

It was just the boost Jim needed. "I was glad I asked because it was extremely helpful."

In his first decade driving for Indian Trails—before recently moving to its Michigan Flyer division—Jim drove a regular Chicago route, and also piloted charter bus trips to destinations such as Washington, D.C., and New York.

A charter trip to Kentucky was particularly memorable. "One of the perks of being a driver is being able to eat where the group eats," he said. "And the best food I ever ate was in Kentucky—including mouthwatering barbecued ribs, filet mignon and corn cakes at an out-of-the-way joint I probably wouldn't have stopped at on my own."

Before joining Indian Trails, Jim owned a Flint Journal newspaper delivery route. Over the years however, changes in the industry forced more newspapers to find their audience online, and workers to take jobs elsewhere.

"I live in Owosso and heard Indian Trails was hiring," he says. "Surprisingly, though I grew up nearby, I didn't know the company existed. And then later I was surprised to learn that it's been here for more than a century."

Like every new driver, Jim started in the company's rigorous, five-week driver training program. "I'd actually never been on a commercial bus before, and I'd never driven anything except a car. When you see these buses on the road, they look gigantic—and they do take some getting used to—but that's why the training is so thorough. Now, I'm almost more comfortable driving a 56-passenger motorcoach than my own car."

More Driver Perks

After 2020, when bus transportation was limited by COVID lockdowns, Jim switched over to Michigan Flyer last April. It's been a good move for him. "I love the routine and being home every night," he says, adding that the passengers are typically in good cheer because they're either heading to Detroit Metro Airport for a plane trip out of state, or happy to be coming home.

"I also love the students who travel between East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Detroit—they're great."

With Michigan Flyer, Jim was also happy to find the same camaraderie among drivers and staff, as well as the same emphasis on going above and beyond to provide a positive experience for passengers.

"They're awesome," says Jim. "The staff is not only serious about getting people to their destinations, but are always going the extra mile to look for alternate routes when a traffic accident or other problem might cause a delay."

He appreciates, too, that the whole company is employee-oriented. "The pay is great and they offer incredible benefits."

When Jim is off duty, he often pursues his passions for theater and sports leagues. He's written numerous plays, as well as poetry and song lyrics, and has regularly appeared as an actor in community theater. A graduate of The Institute of Children's Literature, in 2018 he published "Incipience: The Legend of William's War," a Christian-based novel for 10- to 14-year-olds.



Travel Alerts

Book Seats Now for Spring Break in March

Fair warning: Michigan Flyer-AirRide seats will almost certainly sell out for the Feb. 26-March 11 spring break period. That's when many of nearly 100,000 students at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan combined will be traveling, along with many of the 38,000 faculty and staff members from the East Lansing and Ann Arbor campuses. For MSU, spring

break is Monday, March 7, to Friday, March 11; for U-M, it's Saturday, Feb. 26, to Monday, March 7. So, reserve your seats early if you're planning on riding with us to DTW and back at that time.

Fares for A2-DTW Travel Set to Increase

On March 15, 2022, standard adult fares for riding Michigan Flyer-AirRide between Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport will rise to \$15 one way or \$25 round trip when purchased online. Youth fares will be \$7.50 and \$12.50 respectively. Despite steadily growing operational costs, this will be our first fare increase in 10 years. (Please note that anyone with existing reservations may change them through our website—[MichiganFlyer.com](https://michiganflyer.com)—to any date before March 15 at no additional charge. However, existing reservations that are changed to travel on or after March 15 require payment of the \$3 difference between our old and new adult fares.) Please see the [Fares/Promotions page](#) of our website for information on buying tickets by phone or from the driver, as well as rules for child and youth passengers.



Bargain Airfares for Spring Getaways

Airfares have risen—seemingly across the board—since last month. Still, using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we found very reasonable prices for domestic roundtrips originating at DTW on Thursday, April 14, and returning on Sunday, April 24. Among the search criteria we used: Flights had to be non-stop in both directions, and the return had to arrive at DTW in time for you to catch our last run at 8:15 p.m./8:30 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing. You may well be able to find lower prices if you're flexible about the dates of travel and/or willing to change planes on the way to

your destination. These economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

-  **Chicago (ORD) United Airlines \$183**
-  **Atlanta (ATL) Delta Airlines \$198**
-  **Escanaba, MI (ESC) SkyWest DBA Delta Connection \$210**
-  **Los Angeles (LAX) Spirit Airlines \$253**
-  **Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) Spirit Airlines \$254**

- ✈ **Memphis (MEM)** Delta Airlines **\$258**
- ✈ **Minneapolis (MSP)** Delta Airlines **\$298**
- ✈ **Charlotte, NC (CLT)** American or Delta Airlines **\$308**
- ✈ **New Orleans (MSY)** Delta Airlines **\$325**
- ✈ **Dallas (DFW)** Delta Airlines **\$340**
- ✈ **Nashville, TN (BNA)** Delta Airlines **\$364**
- ✈ **Charleston, SC (CHS)** Delta Airlines **\$428**



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

✈ **Mean Girls the Musical**. Direct from Broadway, it's the side-splitting hit from book writer Tina Fey ("30 Rock"), composer Jeff Richmond ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"), lyricist Nell Benjamin ("Legally Blonde") and director Casey Nicholaw ("The Book of Mormon"). The story of a naïve newbie who falls prey to a trio of frenemies, Mean Girls "delivers with immense energy, a wicked sense of humor and joyful inside-jokery." USA Today says, "Get your tickets now!" Catch one of [eight performances between March 1 and March 6](#) (times

vary) at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, Mich., on the Michigan State University campus. Tickets \$39-\$95. Recommended for ages 10+.

Check out more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar: <http://www.lansing.org/events>.



Ann Arbor

✈ **60th Ann Arbor Film Festival** will take place in-person & online March 22-March 27 at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. It's the oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America, founded in 1963. Internationally recognized as a premiere forum for independent filmmakers and artists, the six-day festival presents more than 180 films from over 20 countries of all lengths and genres, including experimental, animation, documentary, fiction, and performance-based works. [Festival passes \\$60-\\$125](#).

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming

events: <https://www.visitannarbor.org/splash/events>.

Brighton

✈ 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: <https://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



Detroit

 [Waitress the Musical](#). This hilarious Broadway hit comes to life at the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Street, downtown Detroit, with eight performances between March 15 and March 20 (times vary). Featuring original music and lyrics, the story centers on Jenna, a waitress and expert pie-maker who dreams of a way out of her small town and rocky marriage. Pouring her heart into her pies, she crafts desserts that mirror her topsy-turvy life such as "The Key (Lime) to Happiness Pie" and "Betrayed by My Eggs Pie." When a baking contest in a nearby county shows Jenna a chance at a fresh start, she must find the courage to seize it. [Tickets \\$24-\\$64](#).

NOTE: The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from the event listed above. It's within easy walking distance of D2A2's stop in Detroit. When the [D2A2 schedule](#) coincides with [Michigan Flyer's schedule](#) at the BTC, it's possible for East Lansing and Brighton residents to travel by motorcoach for some of these performances, too.

To learn what else is happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://visitdetroit.com/events/>.



Stress-Reducing Travel Tips

-  [Change Your Reservations in Two Quick Steps](#)
-  [Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)
-  [Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)
-  [Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)



Customer Comments

"I fly from Detroit airport all the time. I've driven there exactly three times and parked there exactly once.

Those two trips were because:

1. A friend was flying home and his flight landed after the last bus back to Ann Arbor left.
2. My sister-in-law was flying to visit us and was arriving too late to catch the bus (this was the time I parked - she was nervous about finding her way out of the airport).
3. A company was interviewing me for a job here (before I moved here) and flew me in and rented me a car (I didn't know about the Michigan Flyer at the time, or I would have asked them to get me bus tickets instead).

I've probably taken the bus to and from Detroit airport 30+ times, and frankly I'd rather never drive there again. The bus is too comfy."

—T.T. Oke, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please take a moment to visit one of the websites below to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help them to understand how our service might improve their travels.



Want More Daily Roundtrips? Help Us Find Drivers

Michigan Flyer-AirRide offers eight daily roundtrips right now between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport. Many of you have asked for more, and we're ready to deliver up to 12 roundtrips daily—as soon as we can hire and train enough drivers.

Would someone you know be interested in a rewarding professional driving career—one where travel and adventure come standard? If so, please let them know that Indian Trails (which staffs Michigan Flyer with

professional drivers) pays a starting hourly rate of \$20.40, plus a \$3,000 sign-on bonus.

No previous commercial driving experience is necessary. All new drivers gain knowledge and expertise (plus help in getting a Commercial Driver's License) through our free in-house training program. In fact, they earn \$18 an hour while learning from veteran drivers, and then take the wheel of a motorcoach confident in their skills and supported on the road by our 24/7 Dispatch Center.

Indian Trails is a 112-year-old, family-owned company with a culture of safety and an employee-friendly atmosphere. We appreciate our hard-working staff members, and live by old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

Our drivers pilot Michigan's newest and largest fleet of deluxe motorcoaches. Their job is to ensure that passengers experience top-notch customer service while getting to their destinations safely and on time. In return, Indian Trails also provides such benefits as:

- Two weeks of paid time off in the first year
- Nine paid holidays
- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- 401(k) retirement program with employer match

- ✍ Annual safety bonus
- ✍ Annual employee recognition banquet

We currently have openings based at all three of our operations centers—Owosso, Romulus, and Kalamazoo. Please visit our website to find out more or to apply: <https://www.indiantrails.com/careers>.



Happy St. Patrick's Day, Springtime, Passover & Easter!

Daylight Savings Time. In every state except Arizona and Hawaii (which opted out of the time change), DST will start on Sunday, March 13, in 2022. That's when clocks "spring forward"—or skip—an hour, so there's more daylight to enjoy in the evening, though less in the morning.

St. Patrick's Day, on March 17, is the cultural and religious celebration of Ireland's patron saint, who died in the year 461 A.D. Parades, shamrocks, green

clothing and beer are featured in many countries worldwide. Little-known fact: Although he converted the pagan Irish to Christianity, he wasn't Irish himself, but rather [Romano-British](#).

Spring. Shortly after DST begins, spring officially arrives in the Northern Hemisphere on March 19—the "vernal equinox"—when the Sun is directly above the Earth's equator, and day and night are both 12 hours long. The weather warms and flowers bloom. However, in the Southern Hemisphere, this is the beginning of autumn.

Passover, which lasts from sundown on Friday, April 15, to sundown on Saturday, April 23, in 2022, is the major Jewish celebration marking the Exodus of the Children of Israel from slavery in ancient Egypt. The first night often involves great ceremony around a special family meal called the seder, where foods such as [matzo](#)—symbolic of liberation—are eaten, and traditional recitations are performed.

Easter is on Sunday, April 17, this year. The Christian feast day and holiday—famous for brightly-colored eggs, bonnets, bunnies, candy baskets, lilies, and church services—commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. That occurred three days after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary in 30 A.D., according to the Bible's New Testament.

Why Drive?

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



Michigan Flyer
333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823
www.michiganflyer.com



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