

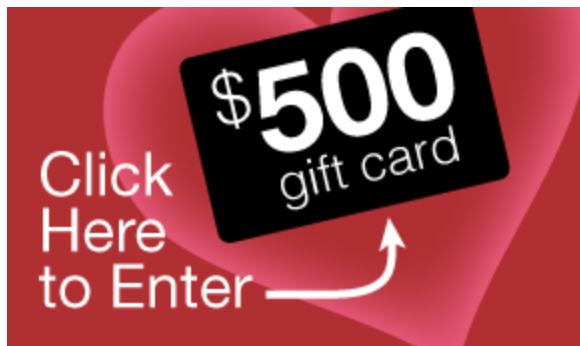


MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

FEBRUARY 2023



Tell Us Your Love Story, Win a Big Prize!

Announcing a brand new essay contest—and your chance to win a \$500 gift card Top Prize, or one of five \$100 gift card Runner-up Prizes!

To enter, just tell a great—but true—story about how Michigan Flyer helped to connect you with a special person, place or adventure dear to your heart. In addition to the gift card, 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 300 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) between now and May 22, 2023. 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 Your Driver, Mark Sturtz

Before he began driving for Indian Trails, Mark Sturtz worked as a photographer for a portrait studio for 25 years, and then as a school bus driver for the Kearsley Community School District in Genesee County, Mich.



Then, almost a decade ago, the Flint native heard about Indian Trails. “My friend said they were hiring drivers and I should check it out. I’m so glad I did.”

Mark joined Indian Trails in 2014 after passing its six-week training program for new drivers, which includes learning the rules and regulations for motor carriers, maneuvering a motorcoach, the mechanics of the bus, safe driving techniques, passenger safety, customer service, company history, and more. Previous experience as a school bus driver was helpful, but with his particular learning style, Mark found some aspects of the training challenging. “The trainers worked with me, at my pace, so I could master it all. And afterward,

they continued to be very accommodating. Veteran drivers were also generous with their advice.”

Moving to Michigan Flyer

Initially, Mark drove regular daily routes for Indian Trails but when an opportunity arose for him to become a full-time Michigan Flyer driver in 2021, he leapt at it. “This worked well,” he says. “It’s a really good fit for where my life is right now.”

Mark says his aim every time he gets behind the wheel is to provide passengers with a smooth, efficient, and customer-friendly trip to their destination. “Our #1 goal is always passenger safety,” he says, while also giving high marks to the mechanics who keep our motorcoaches in tip-top shape. “I love our mechanics and the fact that it doesn’t matter which bus I get when I arrive on duty since they all operate so well.”

Avoiding Delays

Every driver knows that an accident or unforeseen roadwork can delay travel. And for our passengers, that can result in missing a flight or another important connection. So Mark appreciates that our staff constantly monitors what’s happening on our route between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport.

“The staff is so good at feeding new directions to drivers, as needed, in order to re-route us to our destinations efficiently,” says Mark. “It’s all about doing everything we can to deliver great customer service.”



“Most passengers are happy to be on my bus, and I get a lot of thank-yous,” he notes, “especially from folks experiencing Michigan Flyer for the first time. They’re impressed with the comfort and amenities of our coaches.”

When he’s not at work, Mark relaxes with an old job that’s now a hobby. “I still love photography and the outdoors, so now I mostly take pictures of birds. I’ve even set up a wireless remote photo system in my backyard to capture different birds who come to rest on a perch.”

Travel Alerts

Overcoming Disruption of the National Bus Network

If you’re among the many thousands of people who love to travel across America on luxury motorcoaches—like



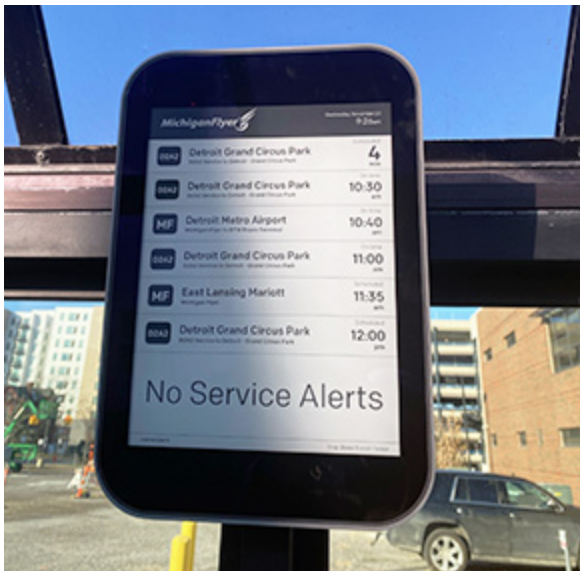
those operated by our parent company, Indian Trails—you may find it difficult to buy tickets online or from ticket agents after February 21.

As you may know, Indian Trails connects or “interlines” with almost 80 other bus companies across the country. So, up to now, you’ve been able to buy one ticket that includes travel on two or more carriers in the national transportation network. Effective February 22, this no longer includes Greyhound.

The current situation—only temporary—is due to a decision by Greyhound/FlixBus to terminate all existing interline agreements and discontinue its interline ticketing system (TRIPS) for all U.S. carriers effective February 22. (Greyhound was acquired by FlixBus, a German firm, in October 2021.) As a result, Indian Trails is ending its nearly 100-year interlining arrangement with Greyhound.

In place of the old TRIPS ticketing system, a new, independent national interline ticketing system is being launched on February 22. It offers much more flexibility for customers and carriers, plus an even larger network of carriers for intercity bus travelers.

If you’d like to buy tickets for long-distance travel, simply book reservations online at <https://www.indiantrails.com/bus-tickets>. And if you encounter any difficulty, call Indian Trails customer service toll free at 800-292-3831, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.



Where's My Bus?

For passengers boarding in Ann Arbor, the answer is available on an electronic sign INSIDE the bus shelter by the Blake Transit Center. It continuously displays updated arrival times for both Michigan Flyer and D2A2 buses. The data beamed to the sign by WiFi comes from satellite-based GPS systems and computers on board each of our motorcoaches, which monitor bus location and speed. (Note that the same data is used by our free app for both Apple and Android smartphone—the [Indian Trails Bus Tracker](#)—which is available to all passengers.) Next, we’ll be rolling out electronic signs at our locations in East Lansing and Brighton.

Book Seats NOW for Spring Break

Friendly reminder: Michigan Flyer-AirRide seats will likely sell out for the spring break period from Feb. 24 to March 12. That’s when many of tens of thousands of

students, faculty and staff members at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan will be traveling to and from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW). For U-M, spring break is from Saturday, Feb. 25, to Monday, March 6; for MSU, it’s from Monday, March 6, through Friday, March 10. So, reserve your seats early if you’re planning on riding with us to DTW and back during this period.

Airfares for Spring Getaways

Ready for vacation in warmer weather? Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for roundtrip travel



between DTW and a variety of sunny destinations departing on Friday, April 7, and returning on Sunday, April 16. Among our search criteria: Flights had to be non-stop in both directions, and the return had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 8:15 p.m./8:30 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing.

NOTE: Most airfares have increased since our last spot check a month ago. But lower prices than these are readily available for anyone flexible about the dates of travel, or willing to change planes en route to their destination. In fact, if you're okay with making one stop

along the way, instead of taking a direct flight, then a world of potential destinations is open to you. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier/Spirit \$113
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit \$208
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit \$226
Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit \$232
Las Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$241
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Spirit \$246
Austin, TX (AUS) Spirit \$268
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Spirit/Frontier \$304
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit \$340
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$372
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$392
Houston, TX (IAH) United \$393
Greenville, SC (GSP) Delta/SkyWest \$408

Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit \$428
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$508
Cancun, MEX (CUN) Spirit \$581
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$608
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta \$608
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$623
Jacksonville, FL (JAX) Delta \$633
Monterrey, MEX (MTY) AeroMexico \$776
West Palm Beach, FL (PBI) Delta \$848
Mexico City (MEX) Delta \$1,356
Paris (CDG) Delta \$1,472
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$2,398
Tokyo (HND) Delta \$3,284



Tips for Smarter Travel

-  [Change Your Reservations Online 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](#)

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[National Geographic Live: Secrets of the Whales](#)

Celebrated photographer Brian Skerry has spent nearly four decades exploring and documenting Earth's oceans. Here, he focuses on one of the world's most beloved animals, and offers startling new insights into their lives and culture. Discover the extraordinary communication skills and intricate social structures among four different species of whales, and learn what they can teach us about ourselves and our planet. It's at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., Michigan State

University, East Lansing. [Tickets \\$19-\\$47 plus \\$2.50-\\$5 fee.](#)

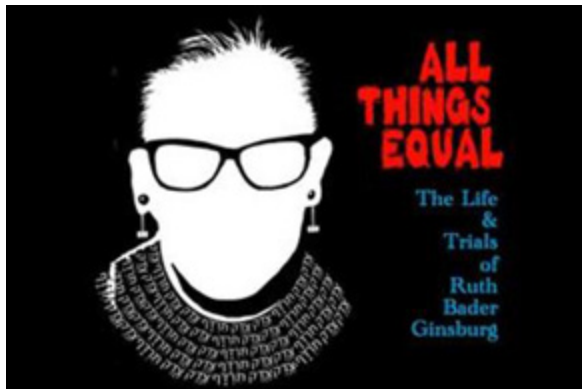


[So This is Love ... A Cabaret Matinee to Benefit Ukraine](#)

Featuring renowned soprano Rachael Gates along with The Unity Trio of Jeff English on piano, Justin Valla on double bass, and Steve Edwards on drums, this hour-long performance happens on Sunday, March 5, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St, Lansing. Come enjoy an eclectic mix of jazz, folk, and musical theater. In addition, a dinner menu is available. All donations will benefit the suffering people of war-torn Ukraine. This event is sponsored by Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer.

To get to UrbanBeat by bus from Michigan Flyer's location at the East Lansing Marriott, catch the westbound CATA #1 bus at the corner of Grand River Ave. and M.A.C. Then, at the CATA Center on N. Grand River in downtown Lansing, switch to CATA's #14 bus to Old Town-Capital City Airport. Get off at Turner St. in Old Town and walk about one minute to UrbanBeat. Or, plan your own route with [CATA's trip planner](#).

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



Ann Arbor

[All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

A stage play starring Michelle Azar, produced by Scott Stander, written by Tony Award Winning Rupert Holmes, and directed by Laley Lippard. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg welcomes a family friend into her cozy chambers and, over the course of 90 fascinating and often funny minutes, a compassionate icon of American justice emerges. She's not only "notorious" but victorious in taking a stand for ordinary people facing the challenges of a changing world.

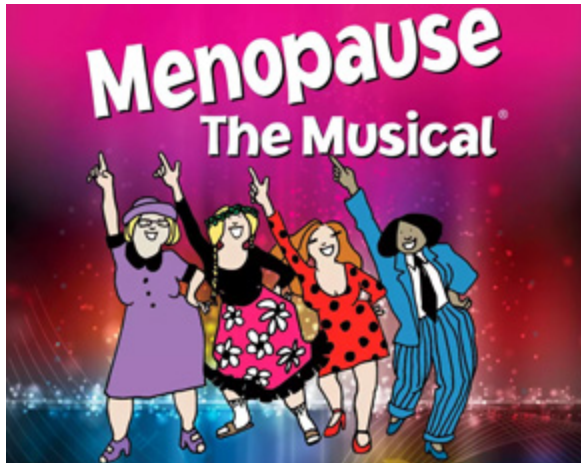
Performance at 7:30 p.m., March 14, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$49-\\$69+](#).

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

Brighton

Like other communities in Livingston County, Brighton offers many events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar:

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



Detroit

[Menopause The Musical®](#)

It's a hilarious Celebration of Women and The Change! ® Four women at a lingerie sale have nothing in common but a black lace bra and memory loss, hot flashes, night sweats, not enough sex, too much sex, and more. This musical parody set to classic tunes from the '60s, '70s and '80s will have you cheering and dancing in the aisles! See what more than 17 million women and fans worldwide have been laughing about for 20 years. Two performances: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 at the Music Hall Mainstage, 350 Madison St., Detroit. [Tickets \\$40-\\$70+](#).

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 3 p.m. performance of this event. The Music Hall is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop in Detroit (at 1508 Park Ave.) Also, since the [D2A2 schedule](#) coincides with [Michigan Flyer's schedule](#) at the BTC for the early performance, East Lansing and Brighton residents can also ride buses to and from this event.



[Carrie Underwood with Special Guest Jimmie Allen](#)

Eight-time Grammy® Award winner and three-time ACM Entertainer of the Year, Carrie Underwood brings her new "The Denim & Rhinestones Tour" to Detroit on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. She'll be joined by Jimmie Allen, whose star continues to rise following his Grammy® nomination for Best New Artist in 2022, and his CMA and ACM Award wins for New Artist of the Year and New Male Artist of the Year in 2021. Catch the show at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit [Tickets \\$34-\\$150+](#).

NOTE: The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor's BTC to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can also get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from this event. Little Caesar's Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop in Detroit.

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

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Can you spare a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels? If so, please visit any of the websites below to submit a brief review about your personal experience with Michigan Flyer-AirRide. Thank you!



Professional Drivers Wanted

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a **starting** hourly rate of \$21.42, provide a 6-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Drivers License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Full-time drivers also receive:

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

- ✍ Annual safety bonus
- ✍ Annual employee recognition banquet
- ✍ Opportunities for advancement

Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 113-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

We encourage anyone, including those with no commercial driving experience, to apply. Also, as a Certified Veteran-Friendly Employer, we welcome all veterans. The requirements and application can be found online by clicking any of the openings. It takes a special person to be a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

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 12, in 2023. That's when clocks "spring forward"—or skip—one 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 Monday, March 20—the "vernal equinox"—when the Sun is directly above the Earth's equator, and day and night are both 12 hours

All of us at Michigan
Flyer wish you the
very best of this
season of rebirth,
rejuvenation, and
renewal!

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.

long. The weather warms and flowers bloom. However, in the Southern Hemisphere, this is the beginning of autumn.

Passover, which lasts from sundown on Wednesday, April 5, to sundown on Thursday, April 13, in 2023, 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 9, this year. The Christian feast day and holiday—famous for brightly-colored

Why Drive?

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



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www.michiganflyer.com



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