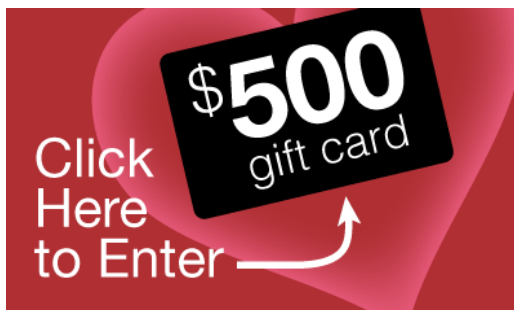




Tell Us Your Love Story, Win a Big Prize!



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, 2025. 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 which stories best fit the contest theme. Good luck!

Meet Your Driver, Keith Lockwood



Keith Lockwood was working for a restoration company, removing water from flooded homes and businesses, when an ad caught his eye for bus drivers at Indian Trails, our parent company.

"I'd been a pipefitter, a welder for 20 years, and was doing restoration work when I thought it might be time to try something different," he recalls.

"It really surprised some friends and family when I told them I was applying. "They said, 'But you don't like driving!' Well, I didn't love it when I was a welder and had to drive all over, but this is different and so much better."

Just over two years later, Keith is happy he made the career change. Starting out as all Indian Trails drivers do, he passed a weeks-long intensive training program before going on his first regular run to St. Ignace, Mich.

A native of Zilwaukee, Mich., who grew up in Bay City (and lives there today), Keith hadn't heard of Indian Trails before he saw that ad. In training, he was both surprised and impressed to learn that the company has been around since 1910. He appreciates its longevity, and the corporate values that have been passed down for 115 years: "They really do treat you like family."

Also, he's grateful to then-Safety & Training Manager Becky Smith, who spotted Keith still taking copious notes well into his training. "Even after learning so much, I was worried about forgetting stuff. But she took my notebook away." She knew he was using it as a crutch, when Keith was nearly ready to walk on his own. "I calmed way down after that," he says.

Like most new drivers at Indian Trails, Keith was nervous when it came time to drive an entire route on his own. "In training, we take our first trips with veteran drivers," he says. "So, it's a bit intimidating when you finally go solo, but also a relief when that drive is under your belt."



Moving to the Flyer

When the chance came to operate for Michigan Flyer over a year ago, Keith was excited. "I'd filled in as a substitute driver for the Flyer and was looking for a set schedule. It's been great."

Among the things Keith most appreciates about it are his passengers, the feeling of independence when he's behind the wheel, and the fact that—while his route is always the same—each day is different. "You never know what you're going to see and what

to expect. Like the time two tires came rolling across the road from a semi-truck—that was a first! I saw it happening and pulled over safely as I was trained to do.”

First and foremost for Keith, as for all our drivers, is passenger safety, plus getting them to their destinations on time.

“I’ve met a lot of interesting folks on this job,” he says. “I always aim to do my best to assist my passengers and give them a safe and smooth ride.” After hours, spending time with his grandchildren is at the top of Keith’s list. He also enjoys hunting.

If you’ve seen one of our “Drivers Wanted” ads and thought about a career change, Keith would encourage you to apply. “No two days are the same,” he says, “and the people I work with are great.”



Travel Alerts

Book Seats NOW for Spring Break

Friendly reminder: Our seats will likely sell out for the spring break period from Feb. 28 to March 10. That’s when 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). Spring break for both MSU and U-M students runs from Sunday, March 2, through Sunday, March 9, this year. To guarantee that we have a seat for you during this period, make reservations without delay at MichiganFlyer.com.



REAL ID Required for All U.S. Flights as of May 7, 2025

If you’re planning to take a domestic flight in the U.S. on or after May 7, be aware that the Dept. of Homeland Security will require everyone to have a state-issued **REAL ID** driver’s license, U.S. passport or passport card, or [other credentials acceptable at TSA Checkpoints](#).

Travelers who buy plane tickets but cannot show a REAL ID-compliant license or acceptable alternative beginning May 7, 2025 will not be permitted through the security checkpoint. REAL ID drivers licenses have a star and/or flag imprinted on them or say "Enhanced." [Click for more info, including sample REAL ID licenses by state.](#)

These are the Longest Flights from DTW

Have you ever wondered how far you can fly from Detroit Metro Airport without changing planes—and how long the flights would take? If so, here are some answers to satisfy curious minds.

The 10 longest nonstop flights from Detroit Metro Airport range from 3,766 miles over 7½ hours for London, England, to roughly double those figures for Shanghai, China. If you'd like to know more about the types of planes being used on these long-haul routes, as well as the accommodations they offer, check out [this article at SimpleFlying.com](#).

Destination Airport	Airline	Approx. Miles	Approx. Hours
London Heathrow (LHR)	Delta & partners	3,766	7:34
Amsterdam (AMS)	Delta & partners	3,940	7:45
Paris (CDG)	Delta & Air France	3,962	7:54
Frankfurt (FRA)	Delta & Lufthansa	4,161	8:05
Honolulu (HNL)	Delta	4,475	10:13
Istanbul (IST)	Turkish	5,298	10:15
Amman Queen Alia (AMM)	Royal Jordanian	6,055	11:20
Tokyo Haneda (HND)	Delta	6,486	13:30
Seoul Incheon (ICN)	Delta & Korean Air	6,637	15:16
Shanghai Pudong (PVG)	Delta & China Eastern	7,137	15:45

More on VP Ody Norkin's Mission to Ease Pain in Ukraine

Michigan Flyer VP Ody Norkin is currently engaged in his fifth humanitarian project for Ukraine. This time, he's helping to procure and deliver an arthroscopic surgical tower to the municipal hospital in Dnipro. He's also shipping three suitcases full of wound- and burn-care supplies.



Surgeon Andriy Domanskyi with the new arthroscopic surgical tower at Dnipro Municipal Hospital

[The East Lansing Rotary Club Foundation](#) and [Jewish Federation of Greater Lansing](#) combined forces to purchase the refurbished machine and tools for \$48,000, which Ody notes was “a really good deal since a new scope costs over \$200,000.” His cousin, surgeon Michael Holzman of Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN, tapped his extensive healthcare connections to find just the right machine at [A.A. Medical](#) in Mokena, Ill. Then it was shipped along with six boxes of parts from New Jersey to the Dnipro Ukraine Rotary Club.

Ody’s charitable mission, begun in 2022, has inspired an enormous volunteer response involving hundreds of people, businesses, health systems, and nonprofit organizations—from across the U.S. and around the globe—to pitch in.

So far, the effort has delivered to war-torn Ukraine four trauma-ready ambulances plus a transit van to transport elderly and infirm refugees out of harm’s way; an entire shipping container full of medical supplies; and a digital x-ray machine. (For details, see our reports of [May](#), [June](#), and [Dec.](#) 2022, and [Feb.](#) 2024).

“We deeply appreciate every contribution toward this critical mission,” says Ody. “Even small amounts have added up to make a big difference in easing the pain and suffering.”



At the Michigan Flyer office, members of the Williamston and East Lansing Rotary Clubs sorting medical supplies for Ukraine donated by Lansing’s Sparrow and Traverse City’s Munson Hospital in 2024

Top Coming Events–We Can Get You There!

East Lansing



Girls Night: The Musical!

Following a sensational off-Broadway debut, this high-energy, heartwarming, and laugh-out-loud show has been captivating audiences with its celebration of friendship, fun, and music. Join five fabulous friends on a wild girls' night out as they relive their pasts, embrace their presents, and dream about their futures.

With hits like "Lady Marmalade," "It's Raining Men," "Man! I Feel Like a Woman," and "I Will Survive," this feel-good musical will have you and your squad dancing in the aisles! Catch it at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, in the Pasant Theater of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the MSU campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$59.50-\\$69.50 plus fee.](#)



Dinosaurs, A Story of Survival and The Dark Matter Mystery

Whether you're a parent whose child would delight in true tales of dinosaurs, or an adult who'd love to learn more about the secrets of the cosmos, Abrams Planetarium has you covered. During March, it's presenting programs on both subjects.

Dinosaurs—showing each Sunday at 2:30 p.m.—tells the story of Celeste, who's preparing a talk for her class about how the creatures went extinct, when a magical character named Moon asks if there are still dinosaurs among us. So begins an exciting journey to Earth's distant past where giant beasts and super predators roam until a cataclysmic event causes their disappearance. But never fear, Celeste also discovers the key to their survival.

The Dark Matter Mystery—each Friday and Saturday in March at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m.—takes you on the biggest quest of contemporary astrophysics. What keeps galaxies together? What are the building blocks of the universe? Researchers worldwide are trying to answer these questions. We already know that approximately

one-fourth of the Universe is filled with a mysterious glue: Dark Matter. But we have no idea what it is made of. In this show, you'll join scientists on their hunt for Dark Matter with experiments in space and deep underground.

Each show is approximately an hour long. [Tickets at the door are \\$5.50 for adults, \\$5 for seniors, and \\$4.50 for children 12 or under.](#) Additional fees may apply to online orders. Abrams Planetarium is located at 755 Science Rd. on the MSU campus in East Lansing. That's about a [one mile or 20-minute walk](#) from Michigan Flyer's headquarters at the East Lansing Marriott.

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

Ann Arbor

Disney Frozen Jr.

A production of the Ann Arbor Civic Theater, "Disney Frozen Jr." is based on the 2018 Broadway musical of the same name. It brings characters Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life—onstage—with young actors from the Junior Theatre community. Music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; book by Jennifer Lee; directed by Denyse Clayton.



A story of love and acceptance between sisters, Frozen JR. expands upon the emotional journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, they discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and humor, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

Performances daily from Thursday, March 13, through Sunday, March 16 (times vary) at the Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. That's about [a 2.2-mile or 49-minute walk from Michigan Flyer's stop](#) at the Blake Transit Center, or a half-hour [bus ride](#).

[Tickets are \\$12 per adult, \\$9 child.](#) Note that the child ticket price includes a special souvenir Frozen Wand.

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

Detroit



Peter Pan – The Musical

The high-flying hit Broadway musical that has been delighting audiences of all ages for nearly 70 years takes the stage with a new adaptation by celebrated playwright Larissa FastHorse, directed by Emmy Award winner Lonny Price, and choreographed by Lorin Latarro. This extraordinary show, full of excitement and adventure, features timeless songs such as "I'm Flying," "I Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Neverland." Peter Pan embraces the child in all of us. So take a journey from the second star to the right and straight on 'til morning with one of eight performances between Tuesday, March 11, and Sunday, March 16 (times vary) at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$26-\\$85+](#).

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. The Fox Theatre is a short 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: <https://visitdetroit.com/events/>.

Airfares for Summer Getaways



The sooner you start planning your summer escape, the less expensive your airline tickets are apt to be. We scouted nonstop roundtrips to popular destinations using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), spot-checking fares for flights originating at DTW on the sample date of Friday, June 20, and returning on Saturday, June 28. Among the search criteria we used: Flights had to be nonstop to the destination both ways, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for you to catch our last run at 9:45 or 10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton and East Lansing.

You can easily find lower prices than these if you're flexible about the dates on which you travel, and/or willing to change planes enroute. For the best prices, too, be sure to buy tickets at least three weeks before your trip. Note that these economy roundtrip fares include taxes, but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

Minneapolis, MN (MSP)

Sun Country + Spirit **\$198**

Denver, CO (DEN) Frontier \$222

Boston, MA (BOS) JetBlue \$234

Washington, DC (DCA) American \$234

New York, NY (LGA) American \$239

Durham, NC (RDU) Frontier \$268

Nashville, TN (BNA) Spirit \$272

Chicago, IL (MDW) Southwest \$275

Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$291

St. Louis, MO (STL) Southwest \$299

Philadelphia, PA (PHL) American \$302

Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier \$308

Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit \$324

Orlando, FL (MCO) Frontier \$333

Dallas, TX (DFW) Frontier \$343

Tampa, FL (TPA) Delta \$359

Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Delta \$369

Miami, FL (MIA) Delta \$385

Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$388

Lexington, KY (LEX) Delta \$419

New Orleans, LA (MSY) Spirit \$428

Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$469

Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$479

Jacksonville, FL (JAX) Delta \$483

Seattle, WA (SEA) Alaska \$490

Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Delta \$494

Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Delta \$498

San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$539

Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Delta \$549

Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR) Spirit \$597

San Francisco, CA (SFO) United \$619

San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$649

San Juan, PR (SJU) Delta \$678

Cancun, MX (CUN) AeroMexico \$734

Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) Delta \$739

Portland, OR (PDX) Delta \$749

Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,922



Tips for Smarter Travel

Know How to Find Us at DTW ([click the link for each terminal](#))

[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

"You literally saved my vacation earlier this year. I was flying out of Lansing (or trying to) around 5:30 a.m. At the gate, we hear an announcement that there's a problem with the aircraft. Well, okay, except there's no mechanic on duty (because it's such a small airport) and there's no time frame on when they'll get there or, obviously, on the repair time. I jump on my smartphone and see there's a Michigan Flyer headed out in 45 minutes. So I call my hubby, who rushes back to the airport, picks me up, and drives as quickly as possible to East Lansing, pulling up to the Flyer with about 3 minutes until departure. Ta-da! I make it to Detroit on time to catch my vacation flight. I can't thank you enough, Michigan Flyer!"

— Rebecca K., Holt, Mich.



Bus Drivers Wanted

No experience necessary! 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 \$23.00, provide a 5-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Among other benefits, full-time drivers 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

Worth noting, too, drivers with the highest seniority currently earn \$33.82 an hour. Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 115-year-old, family-run company that values fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence. [Click here to learn more and ask to get in touch with our recruiter, Jennifer Freeman.](#)

Welcome DST, Springtime & St. Patrick's Day!



Daylight Savings Time. In every state except Arizona and Hawaii (which opted out of the time change), DST will start on Sunday, March 9, in 2025. 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 Monday, 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 officially arrives in the Northern Hemisphere on Thursday, March 20—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.

Why Drive?

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



333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823

www.michiganflyer.com

