



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



e-news

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Wenda Nofera

Meet the Top Prize Winner in Our “Great Connections” Contest!

More than 200 passengers entered our “Great Connections” essay contest with short stories explaining how Michigan Flyer helped to connect them with a special person, place, or adventure. Our first award winner was announced in [August](#), the second in [September](#), the third in [October](#), the fourth in [November](#), and the fifth in [December](#). Here, at last, is our top story.

It took some doing to track down our grand prize winner—Wenda Nofera—who submitted her essay almost two years ago. She first came to the United

States on a Fulbright Scholarship to advance her studies in construction management at MSU’s School of Planning, Design and Construction. After nine years here, in 2021 she returned to Padang, Indonesia—the country she’s from. She now teaches civil engineering there at the Institute of Technology and is gaining experience in the field as a safety contractor on building projects.

“My father was a carpenter with no formal background, and I used to tag along on some of his jobs,” she says. “I’m kind of following in his footsteps.”

Wenda got off to a bit of an intimidating start when she first arrived in the USA as a stranger in a strange land. On the first leg of her flight here, she found herself stranded overnight in New York. And then in Detroit, she

missed her connection to Lansing. Luckily, a stranger—who she noticed on her previous flight, but had shied away from due to her appearance—intervened.

“This experience really stuck with me and that’s why I wrote about it. It was such an unexpected surprise when she helped by telling me I could easily use Michigan Flyer to get to East Lansing, and it was so convenient and nice.”

Upon arrival in East Lansing, things went even more smoothly for Wenda—so much so that her overall experience was both welcoming and positive, including a match with a family who helped her learn more about American culture and norms.

When we were finally able to contact her in Indonesia and let her know that she was our contest’s top award winner, Wenda says, she was stunned. “I typically don’t check my MSU email account anymore, so I was so surprised when I got the news. I was so happy that I told everyone in my office!” And while she hasn’t yet used her \$500 gift card, she’s been having fun choosing items to place in her Amazon cart.

Here’s Wenda’s award-winning essay with a poignant message for these often-troubled times.



First Impressions and a Lasting One

By Wenda Nofera, Ph.D.

It was my first time in Michigan. I just landed at Detroit Airport after a long journey from another part of the world, Indonesia. I found out that I missed the last flight to Lansing. I was exhausted, scared, and did not know what to do. While waiting for my luggage, a girl approached me. I recognized her as one of the passengers from New York. I had nodded and smiled at her, but we had not shared a word. I guess for a Muslim woman in a hijab like me—who only ever saw a woman dressed in Gothic fashion in a movie—talking to somebody with a long black dress, dark lipstick, nail polish, and eyeliner does not come naturally. In a lovely manner, she said she overheard that I missed my flight to Lansing. I told her I was a new student at MSU. She

told me not to worry. "There is a better way to travel from Detroit Airport to East Lansing," she said. "It is cheaper and even faster." With her help, I took the Michigan Flyer bus to East Lansing. We had a good chat during our journey. I found out that she had also hesitated to talk to me earlier because of the way I dressed. We had a good laugh about it. I thank her to this day. She did not just help me arrive at MSU safely. She made me realize that beneath our garments, we are not so different.

Travel Alerts



Book Seats Now for Spring Break in March

Fair warning: Assuming students return to in-person classes beforehand, Michigan Flyer-AirRide seats will almost certainly sell out for the Feb. 26-March 13 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 U-M, spring

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

Fares for A2-DTW Travel Set to Increase

On March 15, 2022, standard fares for riding Michigan Flyer-AirRide between Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport will rise to \$15 one way and \$25 round trip. That's just \$3 more than currently. 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 fares.)

Delta Extends Flight Credit Expirations

In the four weeks following Christmas Eve, 8,000 employees of Delta Airlines were reportedly infected with the coronavirus. Because they could not come to work while self-isolating, and because of winter storms, more than 2,200 flights were cancelled. As a result, Delta became the first major airline to extend expiration dates for travel vouchers. Customers with flight credits have until the end of 2023 to book a new plane ticket for travel through 2024. But if you'd like more than that if your flight is cancelled, maybe it's time to consider travel insurance.



Airfare Bargains for Spring Break

Ready for some sunny beach time? Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for the cheapest roundtrips originating at DTW for the sample dates of Wednesday, March 2 to Saturday, March 12.

Among the search criteria we used: Roundtrips had to be non-stop in both directions, and the return flight 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":

-  **Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) Spirit Airlines \$57**
-  **Miami (MIA) Spirit Airlines \$69**
-  **Atlanta (ATL) Spirit Airlines \$81**
-  **Tampa (TPA) Spirit Airlines \$92**
-  **Fort Myers (RSW) Spirit Airlines \$98**
-  **New Orleans (MSY) Delta Airlines \$118**
-  **Orlando (MCO) Spirit Airlines \$119**
-  **Charlotte, NC (CLT) American Airlines \$146**
-  **Cancun (CUN) Spirit Airlines \$183**
-  **San Antonio (SAT) Delta Airlines \$309**
-  **Los Angeles (LAX) Delta Airlines \$380**



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

✍ [Disney's Frozen](#). From the producer of *The Lion King* and *Aladdin*, *Frozen*—a Tony®-nominated Best Musical—is now touring North America. Critics say “It’s simply magical!” *Frozen* features the songs from the original Oscar®-winning film, plus a dozen new numbers. Filled with special effects, stunning sets and costumes, and powerhouse performances, it’s pure Broadway joy. Catch one of [14 performances between January 26 and February 6](#) (times vary) at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East

Lansing, Mich., on the Michigan State University campus. [Tickets](#) \$26-\$94. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

Check out more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar:

<http://www.lansing.org/events>.



Ann Arbor

✍ [Comedian Ron "Tater Salad" White](#). The cigar-smoking, scotch-drinking funnyman rose to fame as part of the Blue Collar Comedy Tour. Over the past 20 years, he’s established himself as one of the top grossing stand-up comedians on tour in the country—he’s sold over 14 million comedy recordings and been nominated for three Grammys. White’s second one-hour special, “You Can’t Fix Stupid,” aired on Comedy Central to 4.5 million viewers. He’ll perform at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on February 12 at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. [Tickets](#) \$49.75-\$158.75. For mature audiences only.

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Destination Ann Arbor calendar of coming events:

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

Brighton

✍ Like other communities in Livingston County, Brighton 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

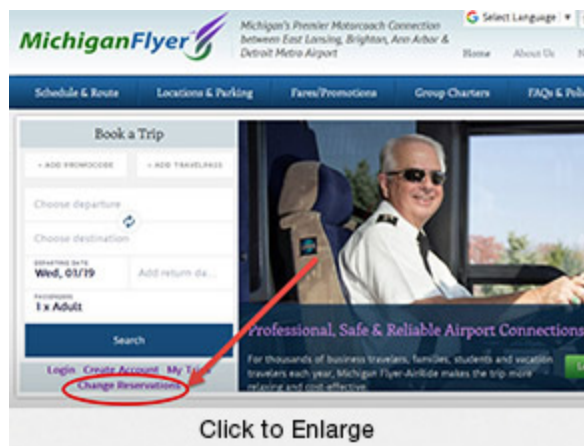
The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor’s Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit’s Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from the events listed below. Both are within easy walking distance of D2A2’s stop in Detroit. When the [D2A2 schedule](#) coincides with [Michigan Flyer’s schedule](#)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

[The Dance Theatre of Harlem](#). Sunday, Jan. 23, at 2:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Street, Detroit. The Dance Theatre of Harlem continues to push the pinnacle of balletic expression with this exhilarating mixed repertory program that features ground-breaking contemporary works from choreographers Claudia Schreier and Robert Garland. [Tickets](#) \$29-\$129.



 **Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party.** Saturday, Feb. 19, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m., at Little Caesars Arena, 2525 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Join Mickey Mouse and pals as they follow Captain Hook's treasure map to find Tinker Bell. Sing along with Elsa as a kaleidoscope of crystals helps build her ice palace. Watch Belle lift into the sky on an enchanted chandelier. See Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Jessie recruit Green Army Men for a daring rescue. Sail away with Moana. And join Aladdin and The Little Mermaid in an all-out celebration! **Tickets** \$20-\$92.

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



Tips for Smarter Travel

How to Change Your Reservations in Just Two Quick Steps

1. In the "Book a Trip" box on the home page of MichiganFlyer.com, click "Change Reservations," then enter your email address and ticket number.
2. On the "Ticket Change" screen, simply choose a new date and time for your ride.

That's it! You can then download the new ticket to your smartphone or print it out.

An email will automatically be sent to you confirming the reservation change. Your ticket includes a QR code that you should bring—either on paper or your phone—for the driver to scan when you check in at the bus.

PLEASE NOTE: Reservation changes can be made online up until 20 minutes before departure, and two such changes are allowed. In addition, if you purchased parking along with your ticket, you'll need to contact our office for assistance.

-  **Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind**
-  **Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara Terminal**
-  **Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time**

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? 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.

Importantly, no previous commercial driving experience is necessary. All new drivers gain knowledge and expertise (plus help in obtaining a Commercial Driver's License) through our FREE in-house training program, which has served as a model for driver training nationwide. 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 111-year-old, family-owned company with a culture of safety and an employee-friendly atmosphere. We truly 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 enjoy top-notch customer service while getting to their destinations safely and on time. In return for this important work, Indian Trails also provides such benefits as:

- 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
- Annual company picnic

We currently have openings based at all three of our operations centers—Owosso, Romulus, and Kalamazoo. As a Certified Veteran-Friendly Employer, we welcome all veterans. Please visit our website to find out more or to apply: <https://www.indiantrails.com/careers>.



Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents Day!

Roses are red, violets are blue, for comfortable airport connections, we're here just for you! Happy Valentine's Day, February 14, from all of us at Michigan Flyer-AirRide! We love serving you all year long. Wishing you and your sweeties all the best and safe travels always!

President's Day is always on the third Monday of February, and that's the 21st in 2022. This federal holiday not only honors George Washington (the first president of the United States, born February 22) and Abraham Lincoln (the 16th president, born February

12), but all the presidents who have served our nation. Hail to the chiefs!

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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