



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



e-news

JULY 2022



A Young George Lostracco

Meet Your Driver: George Lostracco

When he was a toddler in the 1980s, a family friend arranged for George Lostracco to see an Indian Trails motorcoach up close, and his parents snapped a picture of their little boy in the driver's seat.

It took some time for George to get back behind the wheel, but when he did in 2014, he knew he'd found the right spot. For the past year, he's been piloting a Michigan Flyer motorcoach.

A native of Owosso—the home of Indian Trails—George's career had included working in both a bank and insurance company, processing retirement

accounts and taking phone calls. Then he felt the itch to get out of his cubicle.

"I had a bachelor's degree in business from Central Michigan University and had worked as a cook in college dorms and in construction," he says. "But after a few years of office life, it felt constrictive and I wasn't enjoying it."

George thought about getting back into construction when a friend mentioned he was going to apply for a driver position at Indian Trails. "My friend wound up not applying," he recalls. "But I did. I was going in blind in hopes of doing something different."

Benefits of Training

Like many new recruits, George had no experience driving anything larger than a car or small truck. He remembers being impressed with the company's thorough, six-week training program. "It was laid out so well and we were reassured that we could take the time we needed to feel comfortable."

Even with the training, George clearly remembers the first time he went out on the highway with other new drivers to take turns behind the wheel. "We pulled into a parking lot and Jeff Hutchinson, the VP of Operations, told me it was my turn. He assured me I could do it. I white-knuckled it for about 10 miles and then settled down. It was a real confidence booster."



The Spice of Variety

In his eight-year career with Indian Trails, George has served as a driver on daily scheduled routes, and taken charter groups on bus trips to specific destinations. Now he's driving for Michigan Flyer, which shuttles between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport nine times a day.

"I love it all," he says. "The variety is great. It can make for an exciting day. Our charter trips have taken me places I never expected to go. I enjoy switching it up, though that may not appeal to everyone. The good news is that, after six months to a year here, you can pretty much choose what suits you best—a regular route or the variety of charter trips."

One of George's favorite charter trips is to the Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio. That's because it always involves transporting a group of happy travelers. Plus, it's usually fun for him, too. "It's a laid-back kind of trip. You arrive. You're going to be there for a while. You get to talk with other drivers, and you can even have some fun on the rides while waiting for your passengers to complete their day. You get to appreciate the experience."

Enjoying the Ride

For all his initial nerves, George recalls when he realized that his passengers, once on board, weren't really paying attention to him. "I thought it would be a lot of pressure, but they're just sitting back and enjoying the ride, reading a book, working on their laptops or whatever. They're happy to be going somewhere or heading home."

After almost a year with Michigan Flyer, George says he never gets tired of hearing new passengers praise the shuttle service. "They tell me how happy they are that the service exists, that it's affordable, convenient, and alleviates so many headaches in terms of connecting with Detroit Metro Airport."

In his downtime, George likes to tend to his lawn and garden, and listen to podcasts on such diverse subjects as history, geography, and economics.

And he's grateful that he listened to the friend who suggested he apply at Indian Trails: "I felt it from the first day. The buses are terrific. The mechanics keep them in great shape, as do the bus washers. It's like a family here, from those in the office right on down. Everyone's so friendly and relaxed. I'm glad I'm here."



Professional Drivers Wanted: \$3,000 Sign-On Bonus!

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is now accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a starting hourly rate of \$20.40, plus a \$3,000 sign-on bonus; provide a great 6-week PAID training program; 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

Perhaps just as important as wages and benefits, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 112-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 these 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 about the job [here](#).



Travel Alerts

[Big crowds in downtown Ann Arbor for the Art Fair.](#)

The ongoing fair, now in its 62nd year, draws nearly half a million attendees annually. People come to see—and purchase—works created by nearly 1,000 artists in virtually every medium that are displayed over 30 city blocks downtown. The fair also features live music and art activities, dining and sidewalk sales. It continues on Friday, July 22, 10 a.m.– 9 p.m., and Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.

[Reserve Seats Early—Here Come the College Students!](#)

If you're planning to ride with us between mid-August and Labor Day, it would be wise to reserve your seats soon. That's because students and faculty will soon be flooding into East Lansing and Ann Arbor—and many will be traveling on Michigan Flyer-AirRide.

More than 50,000 students and faculty members will be arriving at the University of Michigan, whose classes begin on Aug. 29. Roughly the same number are destined for Michigan State University, where classes begin on Aug. 31. While some local residents may miss the quiet of summer, the throngs of college students bring

many positives—including a vibrant atmosphere, and an estimated \$2 billion boost for the mid-Michigan economy.



Airfares for Late Summer Getaways

While airfares have been rising lately, by using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com) we were still able to find reasonable prices for domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Friday, Sept. 9, and returning on Sunday, Sept. 18. Among the criteria used for our spot check: 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 can surely find even 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":

- New York, NY (LGA) Spirit \$116
- Myrtle Beach (MYR) Spirit \$117
- Miami (MIA) Spirit \$121
- Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) Spirit \$124
- Atlanta (ATL) Spirit \$130
- Boston (BOS) JetBlue \$158
- Philadelphia (PHL) Spirit \$164
- Ft. Myers (RSW) Spirit \$171
- New Orleans (MSY) Spirit \$195
- Chicago (MDW) Delta \$218
- Indianapolis (IND) Delta \$218
- Escanaba, MI (ESC) SkyWest/Delta \$237
- Cincinnati (CVG) Delta \$238
- Cleveland (CLE) Delta \$238
- Milwaukee (MKE) Delta \$238
- Durham (RDU) Delta \$258
- Denver (DEN) Frontier \$261
- Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$278
- Lansing (LAN) Delta \$278
- Providence (PVD) Delta \$278
- Madison (MSN) Delta \$288
- Des Moines (DSM) Delta \$298
- Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$306
- Los Angeles (LAX) Spirit \$306
- Hartford (BDL) Delta \$318
- Memphis (MEM) Delta \$348
- Louisville (SDF) Delta \$368
- Marquette (MQT) SkyWest/Delta \$389
- Minneapolis (MSP) Delta \$398
- Portland, ME (PWM) Delta \$398
- Jacksonville (JAX) Delta \$408
- Austin (AUS) Delta \$418
- Charleston, SC (CHS) Delta \$428
- San Antonio (SAT) Delta \$558
- Seattle (SEA) Delta \$638
- Phoenix (PHX) Delta \$648

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

[Car Capital Auto Show.](#)

This 29th annual FREE celebration of Lansing's automotive history features 200 classic cars in 45 categories, plus food vendors, exhibitors, and DJ on site. Check out the [event flyer here](#). The State Capitol serves as a backdrop for the event. It takes place at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Dr., and at surrounding properties in downtown Lansing, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.



RE Olds Transportation Museum

✍ A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus can get you from our location at the East Lansing Marriot to the Auto Show in about 30 minutes for \$1.25. Find [CATA's Trip Planner here](#). Folks from the Brighton and Ann Arbor areas who are going to the Auto Show should know that our last eastbound run of the day leaves East Lansing at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.



✍ [Michigan's Bacon Festival](#). Right after the Auto Show, you can also catch the state's first-ever bacon fest just across Michigan Ave. at Jackson Field, home of the Lansing Lugnuts baseball team. The event promises "everything bacon," including bacon donuts, bacon mac & cheese, bacon beer and more, plus food trucks, games, and live music.

Fun for all ages, it runs from 3 p.m. (VIPs) or 4 p.m. (general admission) to 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. [Tickets \\$35-\\$55](#) include festival entry, tokens for drinks and food samples, a souvenir cup and lanyard.

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



Ann Arbor

✍ [Horizon Performing Arts Presents: Matilda.](#)

Inspired by the twisted genius of writer [Roald Dahl](#), the Tony Award-winning "Matilda The Musical" is directed by Amanda Williams. It's a captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination, and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. Enjoy the show at the Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., in Ann Arbor at 7 p.m. daily from Thursday, Aug. 11, through Saturday, Aug. 13, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14. [Tickets \\$14-\\$18](#).

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

[Kiwanis Millpond Concerts.](#)

This FREE concert series—now in its 45th season—is a community family tradition in Brighton. Until recently, the musical event, which also hosts food vendors, had been combined with a classic car show on Main St., but that's been discontinued due to crowd safety concerns. The remaining free concerts run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



each Sunday from now through Aug. 26. [See the list of performers here](#). The concerts are staged in Mill Pond Park downtown.

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/>.

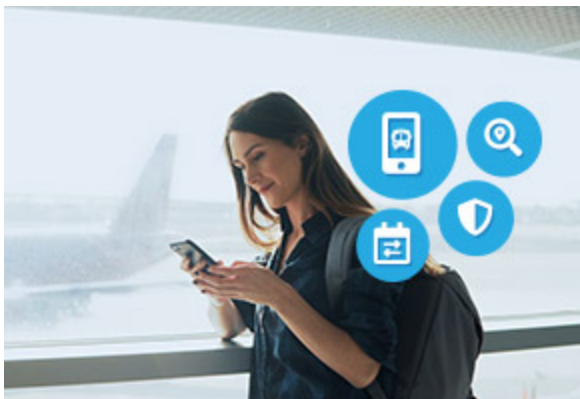


Detroit

[Ribs and R&B Music Festival](#). Revelers at this annual event are treated to a summertime celebration of barbecue and great music. It features an outstanding lineup of 20+ food vendors serving up tasty ribs, brisket and chicken, eight full-service bars, as well as a variety of talented R&B and soul singers. Staged at Hart Plaza, it runs daily from 11:30 a.m. to midnight on Friday, Aug. 12, and through Sunday, Aug. 14. Admission is free until 5 p.m. on Friday, or until 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and \$10 after that.

PLEASE 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 at Grand Circus Park in Detroit. When the D2A2 schedule coincides with Michigan Flyer's schedule at the BTC, it's also possible for East Lansing and Brighton residents to travel by motorcoach for some of these performances, too.

To learn what's 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 Three 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 Comment

“Always on time and reliable. The buses are clean and comfortable. ... You can also bring both checked luggage and a carry-on. They have free Wi-Fi available onboard. The drivers and call center were always friendly. Affordable price and numerous departures throughout the day.”

—Han S., Durham N.C.

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

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



Why Drive?

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



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