

Michigan's premier motorcoach connection between East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Brighton & Detroit Metro Airport.



Revealing Our First “Great Connections” Contest Winner

Our 2024 essay contest asked folks to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a person, place, or adventure dear to their hearts. It features a \$500 gift card Top Prize and five \$100 gift card runner-up prizes. With the more than 200 fine entries received, our judges—Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants—found it challenging to select the winners. But we finally did, based on which essays best fit the contest theme. (Note that each winner is notified in the month their entry is to be published.)



We're happy to announce that the first of our five runner-up winners is **Careen Loos** of Perry, Mich. As their 25th wedding anniversary approached, Careen and her husband, Jeremy, planned a memory-making trip abroad with the help of a travel agent. They settled on Germany because of Jeremy's ancestral ties and his keen interest in history, especially World Wars I and II. The next step was finding transportation to and from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Careen, a graphic designer who oversees the Digital Lab within MSU Radiology, had never used our shuttle service before. "Some co-workers who used Michigan Flyer told me how much they liked it, so I checked it out," she says. "Not having to drive to the airport and pay for parking there sealed the deal and we booked it."

When they boarded the Flyer as the first part of their journey, Careen was even more impressed. "The driver was so nice, and everything was so smooth and convenient." When she got our e-newsletter announcing the latest contest, Careen couldn't resist submitting an entry. What will she do with her \$100 Amazon gift card? She's not sure yet but is certain she'll put it to good use. Here's her story:



Careen and Jeremy Loos on a tour of the Rhine River

An Anniversary—and Surprise! —to Remember

"Last summer, my husband and I went to Germany for our 25th anniversary. We had always heard good things about the Michigan Flyer, so we gave it a try. We looked forward to this trip for over a year and the day had finally arrived. The moment that we stepped foot onto our bus in East Lansing, we felt like our vacation started. We let our driver worry about the rain and construction and just sat back and enjoyed the ride. Little did we know then that our ride back home would bring with it a pleasant surprise.

"Our Germany trip was a 12-day land tour. We arrived in Frankfurt and did a giant clockwise loop through the country. Highlights included Cologne Cathedral, the Berlin Wall, a tour of King Ludwig's castle (the one that inspired Walt Disney) in Bavaria, and our tour ended in Heidelberg. On our bus ride back to East Lansing, something caught our eye in the downtown district of Ann Arbor. It was a yellow and black coat of arms that looked familiar and next to it was a sign reading, "Heidelberg." A quick Google search and we learned that this was a German restaurant right here in Michigan! Just when we thought we'd be stricken with post-vacation blues, we had something new to look forward to!

"We recently went to the restaurant to celebrate our son's birthday. The main dining room had murals all around the perimeter with several paintings of places we had visited in Germany. We had a wonderful meal reminiscing about our trip and sharing

with our son and our amazing waiter. We even won a round of trivia and enjoyed a free boot of King Ludwig beer on tap! Thank you Michigan Flyer for connecting us to Heidelberg and Heidelberg!”



USA Today Names Indian Trails One of America's 10Best Bus Companies

USA Today recently conducted a nationwide “10Best Readers’ Choice Awards” contest to choose the 10 Best Bus Services in America for 2024, and selected Michigan Flyer’s parent company—Indian Trails—as one of the 10Best!

Pardon our button-popping pride, but if you’ve ridden with us, then you’ve been an Indian Trails passenger, too. “These 10 bus companies are selected by an expert panel and voted by readers as the best in the U.S.,” says USA Today. [Read more about the 10Best Bus Services here.](#)

Readers voted Indian Trails #3 of the 10Best, above such well-known companies as Megabus, Greyhound, and FlixBus. Also, of the [148 private regular route and charter bus companies](#) in Michigan, Indian Trails was the only one to make the 10Best list. Moreover, Indian Trails is one of some [6,000 scheduled and chartered bus companies in the U.S.](#)

“Generations of Indian Trails employees truly earned this honor by operating a top-notch bus transportation company for more than 114 consecutive years,” says Chad Cushman, president and CEO. “We must also thank the nearly 1 million loyal passengers who rely on us each year to carry them safely to their destinations, as well

as the partner agencies—the Michigan Dept. of Transportation and Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation—who support our routes connecting rural communities.”

[Read More](#)



Travel Alerts



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 seat soon. That's because college students will once again flood into East Lansing and Ann Arbor—and many will be using Michigan Flyer.

About 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students, plus upwards of 15,000 faculty and staff members, will be coming to both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan because classes begin on Monday, Aug. 26. So it's little wonder that the resumption of classes gives the mid-Michigan economy an estimated \$2 billion boost.

A Mobile Passport App Speeds International Travelers Through Customs at DTW

On July 9, U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Detroit Metro Airport began allowing international travelers to use a mobile app that streamlines the inspection process for entering the U.S. The Mobile Passport Control app—available for free download at the Apple Store and Google Play—enables travelers to securely submit their travel documents, photo, and customs declaration information through their smartphone or other mobile device.

After downloading the app, users are prompted to create a profile with their passport information. Folks who use the MPC app don't have to complete a paper form and may experience shorter wait times. [More details here.](#) The MPC program, launched in 2014, is available at 51 locations, including 33 U.S. international airports, 14 preclearance

airport locations, and four seaports of entry. It's used by more than 1.8 million travelers a year.



What is Delta's Longest Domestic Route from DTW?

Perhaps no surprise, Delta Airline's longest nonstop flight soars 4,470 miles from Detroit to Honolulu (HNL) and operates daily. The Hawaii-bound flight is scheduled to arrive at 4:01 p.m. local time, about 9.5 hours after departing from DTW at 12:25 p.m. The red-eye return flight lands at DTW at around 6 a.m., after leaving HNL at 3:20 p.m. An economy-class roundtrip ticket costs \$1,899, though you can save roughly \$300-\$600 if you book your flight a few months in advance, or if you don't mind a long layover at another airport enroute.



Delta Extends DTW's Middle East Reach with EL AL Agreement

Early this year, Delta Air Lines and EL AL Israel Airlines launched a strategic partnership to "codeshare" (sell seats on each other's planes) and offer reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits. So, customers flying between the U.S. and Israel can conveniently check in with either carrier to get boarding passes for their entire trip, with bags checked through to their destination.

But the biggest benefit has been more daily connections between Detroit and Tel Aviv. Despite the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, demand for travel to and from Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) in Israel remains high. The partnership between Delta and EL AL has helped lower roundtrip airfares to the \$1,500-\$2,000 range due to the addition of 10 daily connections with DTW: Once each day via London, Newark, Boston, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami, plus five more via New York's JFK airport.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing **MSU Summer Carillon Concert Series**

For three more Wednesdays—July 24 & 31, and Aug. 7—the 49 carillon bells of historic Beaumont Tower will begin ringing at 6 p.m., rain or shine, for this 27th annual concert series. Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic, chair or blanket to enjoy the talents of the expert carillonists performing on the bells. These events are FREE and open to the public.

The remaining concerts feature carillonists Deborah Hennig of Stratford, Ontario; Kayla Gunderson of Chicago; and Alan Bowman from Dayton, Ohio. You can tour the tower and view the bells after each concert. A gift from John W. Beaumont (class of 1882), the tower was dedicated in 1929 and renovated in 1996. Beneath the clock is a crisp Art Deco relief, "The Sower," by sculptor Lee Lawrie. There are 73 steps up the stairs to the playing cabin, which is behind the clocks.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar:

www.lansing.org/events.

Ann Arbor **Doctor Moloch**

This is the world premiere of science fiction theatre about Artificial Intelligence. It's 2029, and tech startup VitalAI is about to launch the first humanoid robot doctor, capable of personalized medicines and single-cell cancer detection.



There's only one problem: the good doctor has no empathy. When actress Serena Blaise arrives to teach him how to "be human," she gets much more than she

bargained for. Until Aug. 4, you can catch it Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. or Sunday at 2 p.m., at Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St, Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$5-\\$28.](#)

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

Brighton Howell Melon Festival

The 64th Annual Howell Melon Festival takes over Downtown Howell on Aug. 16-18.



Come celebrate the locally grown Howell melon, enjoy hand-crafted melon ice cream, try melon-flavored craft beer from the area breweries, and pick up several actual melons. This FREE three-day event offers [fun-filled family and adult activities galore](#), including the Howell Melon Run, a parade through downtown, mainstage musical entertainment, and the [social district](#). The Festival Tent is located at 112 E. Grand River Ave. in Howell, which is about a 15-minute drive from Michigan Flyer's stop at the Brighton Meijer store.

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/.



Detroit Kenny Chesney – Sun Goes Down 2024 Tour

After his intimate "I Go Back 2023 Tour," the eight-time Entertainer of the Year comes to Detroit's Ford Field (2000 Brush St.) on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 5 p.m. [Tickets \\$95-\\$300+](#). The only country artist to be on Billboard's Top 10 Touring Artists of the Last 25 Years for the past 14 years is bringing old friends and new to Detroit.

Joining Chesney is the multiple GRAMMY-winning Zac Brown Band, enjoying their 12th CMA Group of the Year nomination; Megan Moroney is 2023 CMA Song of the Year winner and "When The Sun Goes Down" duet partner of Uncle Kracker, known for his hits "Follow Me" and "Drift Away."

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park (1508 Park Ave.) can get you to within about a half mile of Ford Field.

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

Sample Airfares for Fall Getaways



Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Friday, Oct. 11, and returning on Sunday, Oct. 20. Among our search criteria: Flights had to be nonstop in each direction, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing.

NOTE: Lower prices than these are surely available for anyone who is flexible about the dates of travel, or willing to change planes once or more enroute to their destination. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

Chicago, IL (ORD) United \$97
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) Frontier \$103
Minneapolis, MN (MSP) Spirit \$107
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier \$112
Boston, MA (BOS) Spirit \$123
Denver, CO (DEN) Frontier \$156
Dallas, TX (DFW) Frontier + Spirit \$167
Orlando, FL (MCO) Frontier \$184
Washington, DC (IAD) United \$210
Tampa, FL (TPA) Delta \$219
New York, NY (LGA) Delta \$230
Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Delta \$239
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier \$269
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$279
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit \$282
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta or Alaska \$297
Houston, TX (IAH) United \$298

Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Delta \$308
Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta \$329
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American \$333
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit \$346
Des Moines, IA (DSM) Delta \$359
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta \$409
Burlington, VT (BTV) Delta \$437
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta \$439
Providence, RI (PVD) Delta \$454
Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR) Delta \$474
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta \$479
Miami, FL (MIA) Delta \$497
San Francisco, CA (SFO) United \$599
Portland, OR (PWM) Delta \$619
Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) Delta \$619
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta \$633
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta \$1,265



Tips for Smarter Travel

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!

facebook

tripadvisor

yelp

Customer Comment

"Have to say we received amazing customer service today. At the start of a trip to Italy, I left a bag on the bus. We called your office and they sent the driver back with the bag. Thank God! You guys are the best company! Thank you, thank you!"

—Bob Hoffman, East Lansing, Mich.



Why Drive?

Booking is easy, click here to view schedules.



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www.michiganflyer.com

