

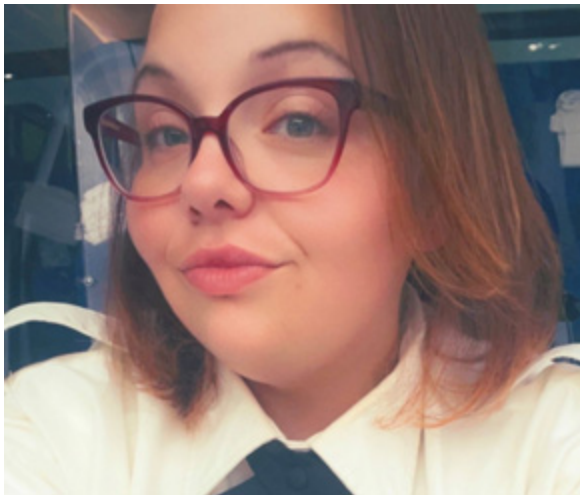


MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

JUNE 2022



Meet New Driver Heather Wyatt

When Heather Wyatt first signed up to drive for Indian Trails, she thought she was just helping a friend. But instead, she found a new career and reinvigorated her life.

"A friend of mind worked at Indian Trails," Heather recalls, "and if she referred someone as a potential new driver, she would get a \$2,000 bonus—and I could get \$3,000 just for signing up." (The bonuses apply if the new driver works full time and stays on the job for at least nine months.)

A native of Flint, Heather moved to Owosso 10 years ago, and was working at local a Shell gas station

before applying at Indian Trails. She had no previous experience driving anything except a regular car and pickup truck.

"I was super nervous on the first day of driver training at Indian Trails," she says. "I was sitting in class with people who'd driven big trucks, school buses, and recreational vehicles. I was a blank slate."

She found her trainer, Safety Director Becky Smith, to be a godsend. "She was absolutely amazing. I just paid attention and took every bit of advice she had to give."

Veteran Drivers Train New Hires

Everyone who signs on as a potential driver for Indian Trails undergoes a free but intensive, six-week training program. In fact, they're paid while they learn the mechanics of a motorcoach, how to operate and maneuver a 56-passenger vehicle, safe driving techniques, customer service, and a lot more. They're taught by veteran drivers like Smith.

As one example, Heather says, "I was a little rough with braking early on. So it helped when Becky told me to think of braking as slowly squishing a marshmallow. After that, I took to it like a duck to water."

She appreciated, too, that when she was ready to go on the road the first few times, her trainer rode along to help guide her, if necessary. "When I finally got out on my own, I did get lost a couple of times, but I had the confidence instilled by my training to figure it out and get quickly back on track."

Driving a motorcoach does come with some challenges, especially in adverse weather conditions. "With Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer, the safety of our passengers is the number one priority," says Heather. "Our dispatch center is always there to help us if we need to seek an alternate route around a traffic jam, pull over for a while to wait out a severe storm, or to get off the road entirely."

A Whole New World

While Heather mostly drives regular daily routes and group charter trips for Indian Trails, she also serves as a substitute for Michigan Flyer drivers. That's what she's been doing since May, while a colleague is on leave.

As a "people person," Heather says her goal in life—and every time she's on duty—is to treat people the way she'd like to be treated.

"Delivering great customer service can be difficult nowadays," she says. "People are under stress in general and sometimes you get their wrath, but you can't take it personally. Most of the time, it has nothing to do with you. And it happens only rarely, anyway."

In fact, like other Michigan Flyer drivers, Heather is nearly always delighted by her passengers. Typically, they're either going to Detroit Metro Airport to travel somewhere exciting or to visit family and friends out of state, or they're happily heading back home.

"I'm likely better at driving a motorcoach than my own car. I'm even more attentive because I'm responsible for getting people safely to their destination, and I take that very seriously."

Heather also takes pride in the fact that the motorcoaches she drives are sleek, clean, and comfortable with special amenities that customers love like reclining seats, USB outlets, and Wi-Fi. And she appreciates the century-plus history of the family-owned company, which is run by descendants of the couple who first launched it. "That's amazing," she says.

She's particularly grateful that she listened to her friend and found a new career: "It turns out that I love driving—and I love the company. When I first stepped in the door, it felt so comfortable, like I became a member of the family."

Now Accepting Applications for New Drivers

Indian Trails (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, offer a great 4-6 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
- Meal allowance on multi-day trips
- Paid accommodations for multi-day trips

The requirements and application for entering the Indian Trails bus driver training program 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](#).



Ody, Dr. Radu Berca, and Marco Katz stocking the ambulance for Odessa

Update on Our VP Ody Norkin's Mission to Ukraine

In our [May E-News](#), we reported on the humanitarian missions of our vice president, Ody Norkin, to help ease suffering in Ukraine by providing trauma-ready ambulances for the people of Odessa and Dnipro.

Though he had originally intended to buy and refurbish a used ambulance with his own funds, folks in his Jewish community had bigger ideas. They set up a [website where anyone could make contributions](#). And since then, hundreds of people from the Greater Lansing region, as well as overseas, have donated about \$35,000 to buy the two ambulances.

"These are not Jewish ambulances," Ody notes. "They were donated to help those of any faith or no faith at all. They are there to help our fellow human beings."

As word of his missions spread, local Rotary clubs, health systems, and business and community leaders committed to donating of thousands more in both cash and medical supplies. Accordingly, through an online auction in Italy, he recently bought a third ambulance.

Currently, Ody is planning another trip to Romania this month to prep the latest emergency vehicle for service, possibly in the heavily bombarded city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Deflecting any praise for his own role in these missions, Ody says, "There are many amazing people involved who I'm profoundly grateful to have met and worked with along with way. I'm just the delivery guy." We'll keep you posted on how his third trip to Romania and Ukraine works out.

Travel Alerts

Reduced Schedule between Ann Arbor and Detroit Airport on July 4th



Due to the [Firecracker 5K and Mile Fun Run on July 4 in Ann Arbor](#), followed by the annual Jaycees Fourth of July Parade, only some of our roundtrips between Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport will be operated on Independence Day. To see which ones, just use the “Book a Trip” feature on our website.

Negative COVID Test NOT Required for Air Passengers Coming into the U.S.

As of June 12, 2022, the CDC no longer requires air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight. This is great news for Americans traveling abroad, since the requirement had forced

some to stay overseas weeks longer than they had planned. However, [noncitizen nonimmigrants](#) are still required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States.



Sample Airfares for a European Vacation

What will plane tickets cost for a two-week European vacation this summer? To get a good idea of prices, this time around we spot-checked [Kayak.com](#) and [Kiwi.com](#). Comparing roundtrips that leave from DTW on Saturday, July 23, and return on Sunday, Aug. 7, we found that price differences between the two may—or may not—be large. Partly, that’s because Kiwi draws

some of its price data from Kayak. The upshot: It’s smart to check both sites, as well as others, before booking a flight.

Factors that can also be important: Length of travel time, number of stops, plane changes, or even airport changes in Kiwi’s case. In any event, we chose only return flights that 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 be able to find lower prices depending on how flexible you can be about travel dates, willingness to change planes or airports, or accept long layovers enroute to your destination. These economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other “extras”:

Athens

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,452**
- Kiwi: **\$1,423**

Barcelona

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,322**
- Kiwi: **\$1,070**

Berlin

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,665**

London

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,416**
- Kiwi: **\$1,139**

Paris

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,343**
- Kiwi: **\$1,329**

Rome

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,369**

- Kiwi: **\$1,267**

Dublin

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,049**
- Kiwi: **\$1,036**

- Kiwi: **\$1,670**

Venice

- Kayak/Priceline: **\$1,391**
- Kiwi: **\$1,478**



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

Lansing

4th of July Parade & Concert.

The parade will be held at 11 a.m. around the Capitol Loop downtown. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. at Adado Riverfront Park, also downtown, with fireworks to follow. The Lansing Concert Band will be performing patriotic favorites leading up to an amazing fireworks display. FREE and fun for all ages.

NOTE: A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus can get you from East Lansing to Adado Riverfront Park fairly quickly and for just \$1.25. Near the corner of westbound Grand River Ave. and M.A.C. (a short walk from our location at the East Lansing Marriott), catch CATA's #1 bus to downtown Lansing, get off at Grand Ave.

East Lansing Summer Concert Series.

Each Friday at 7 p.m. from July 8 thru Aug. 12, catch live performances right outside Michigan Flyer's location at the East Lansing Marriott. Scheduled to appear in order are the [Keynote Sisters](#), [Ben Traverse](#), [Taylor Taylor](#), [Jordan Hamilton](#), [Cross Eyed Strangers](#), and [On the Lash](#). Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Grab a bite to eat at any of several downtown restaurants located nearby. (If it rains, the concert will be canceled.) Concerts are in downtown East Lansing at M.A.C. Avenue & Ann Street Plaza. FREE of charge.

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



Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor Art Fair 2022.

Drawing nearly half a million attendees over three days, it's the largest juried art fair in the nation, with works by about 1,000 artists displayed (and for sale) over 30 city blocks downtown. You'll find art in virtually every medium—handcrafted ceramics, jewelry, leather and metalworks, painting, photography, sculpture, wood, and more. In addition, there will be dining and sidewalk sales, [plus live music and art activities](#).

Now in its 62nd year, the fair is actually three independently juried, nonprofit art fairs in one (Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, The Original; Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair; and Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair.) They all take place concurrently on Thursday, July 21, 10 a.m.– 9 p.m.; Friday, July 22, 10 a.m.– 9 p.m.; and Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m.– 8 p.m. [Click here to download a map of the event](#). FREE and fun for all ages.

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

[Michigan Challenge Balloonfest.](#)

The 37th annual balloonfest features carnival rides, kid attractions, fireworks, and the spectacular balloon launches, fly-ins, and evening glow. The [event schedule](#) spans three days—Friday, June 24, 4 p.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, June 25, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, June 26, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.—and is hosted by the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce. Admission is \$5 per day per person, but free for children three and under. [Download the event booklet here](#). The event takes place at the

[Howell High School Complex](#), 1200 W. Grand River Rd., Howell, Mich. That's about a 20-minute drive West on I-96 from our location at the Brighton Meijer. Parking is free.

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

 [Detroit Music Weekend](#) is back and live on Saturday, July 2, from noon to 10 p.m. at the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., downtown Detroit. This year's "Best Blues Fest in the Midwest" honors master blues guitarist John Lee Hooker, who was working as a janitor in Detroit when he released his first hit single "Boogie Chillen" in 1948.

Also performing will be "[Women of the Blues](#)" acts like Zakiya Hooker (John Lee's daughter), Ana Popovic, Bettye LaVette, Thornetta Davis, Eliza Neals, and Tosha Owens. Rounding out the lineup will be Howard

Glazer & Harmonica Shah, and Jimmy D. Scott with special guest Kern Brantley, plus with six up-and-coming musicians who will each perform a set. This day-long festival is FREE.

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 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 take a bus to 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 Two Quick Steps](#)

[Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara Terminal](#)



[!\[\]\(35e4f762fc1cfea5610d92e2d225d5b4_img.jpg\) Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)

[!\[\]\(d84e7ea36f695d92cb39ec32c307ac93_img.jpg\) Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)

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.



Exactly 246 years ago—on July 4, 1776—the Founding Fathers of America's original 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, it condemns and proclaims freedom from the oppressive rule of Great Britain.

Including this famous passage—“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”—it ends with fighting words: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

Ever since then, July 4 has been celebrated with fireworks, parades, picnics and concerts as America’s Birthday!

In fact, the fighting had been ongoing for more than a year. In April 1775, local militiamen fought British soldiers in the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, marking the “shot heard round the world” that started the Revolutionary War. It would not end until 1783.

In 1778, France joined the war on the side of the colonists, and its assistance helped the Continental Army force the British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. At that point, the Americans had won their freedom. Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States in the Treaty of Paris on Sept. 3, 1783.

Why Drive?

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



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www.michiganflyer.com



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