



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



e-news

MARCH 2024



Detroit-DTW shuttle service begins March 25

The [Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan](#) (RTA)—in partnership with Michigan Flyer and its parent company, [Indian Trails, Inc.](#)—will launch an express bus pilot program to connect the city of Detroit with Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Monday, March 25.

The new nonstop service—called **Detroit Air Xpress** (DAX)—will transport passengers between Downtown Detroit (1119 Washington Blvd. near State St.) and both

the McNamara and Evans Terminals of Detroit Metro Airport.

Besides providing Detroiters with direct, reliable, and comfortable transportation to the airport, DAX will bring thousands of out-of-state tourists and visitors into Detroit, as well as benefit airport workers.

DAX will operate 16 daily roundtrips, 365 days a year, between approximately 3:30 a.m. and 11 p.m.—mostly traveling on I-94—with one-way trips expected to take 30-50 minutes, depending on road construction. Regular fares are as low as \$6 in advance or \$8 at the door, and discounts are available for seniors, people with disabilities, students, and frequent riders. For more information, or to purchase tickets online, visit www.dax-bus.com.

Another plus: The DAX stops at DTW give people from the East Lansing, Brighton, and Ann Arbor regions a second way to ride in style to Downtown Detroit and back. That's in addition to the RTA's D2A2 Express Bus



SCHEDULE

Operating 365 days a year, from 3:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

WB	Depart	Arrive	Arrive	EB	Depart	Depart	Arrive
Schedule	Detroit	MtClimara	Evans	Schedule	Evans	MtClimara	Detroit
705	3:30 AM	4:00 AM	4:10 AM	706	4:20 AM	4:35 AM	5:00 AM
709	4:30 AM	5:00 AM	5:10 AM	710	5:25 AM	5:40 AM	6:10 AM
713	5:45 AM	6:20 AM	6:30 AM	714	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:35 AM
717	6:45 AM	7:20 AM	7:30 AM	718	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	8:35 AM
721	8:05 AM	8:40 AM	8:50 AM	722	9:05 AM	9:20 AM	9:55 AM
725	9:05 AM	9:35 AM	9:45 AM	726	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:50 AM
729	10:15 AM	10:45 AM	10:55 AM	730	11:10 AM	11:25 AM	11:55 AM
733	11:30 AM	Noon	12:10 PM	734	12:25 PM	12:40 PM	1:10 PM
737	12:45 PM	1:15 PM	1:25 PM	738	1:40 PM	1:55 PM	2:25 PM
741	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	2:40 PM	742	2:55 PM	3:10 PM	3:40 PM
745	3:15 PM	3:45 PM	3:55 PM	746	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	4:55 PM
749	4:30 PM	5:10 PM	5:20 PM	750	5:35 PM	5:50 PM	6:30 PM
753	5:45 PM	6:25 PM	6:35 PM	754	6:50 PM	7:05 PM	7:45 PM
757	7:10 PM	7:45 PM	7:55 PM	758	8:10 PM	8:25 PM	8:55 PM
761	8:15 PM	8:45 PM	8:55 PM	762	9:10 PM	9:25 PM	9:55 PM
765	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:10 PM	766	10:25 PM	10:40 PM	11:10 PM

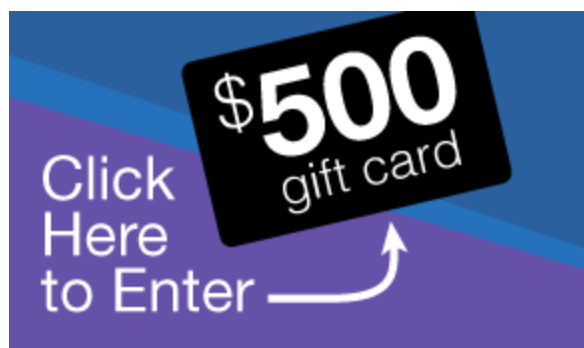


from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center to Detroit's Grand Circus Park.

The D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave. in Detroit is about an 8-minute walk from the new DAX stop. Passengers might choose D2A2 because it's closer to attractions such as the Detroit Opera House, The Fillmore, Fox Theatre, Little Caesar's Arena, Comerica Park, and Ford Field. On the other hand, the DAX stop is closer to hotel and financial districts, Rosa Parks Transit Center, DDOT, MoGo bike share, People Mover, and SMART, as well as Campus Martius Park, the Renaissance Center, and Detroit Riverwalk.

The RTA secured a \$2.5 million grant to fund at least one year of the new service to help determine demand and possible future expansion. The funds come from the Federal Highway Administration's Carbon

Reduction Program, which is administered by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.



Don't Miss Out: Tell a Great Story, Win a Big Prize!

Our latest "Great Connections" essay contest is 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, all winners will have their stories and photos published in our E-news for the enjoyment of fellow passengers.

Just submit your story of up to 300 words [here at SurveyMonkey](#) between now and May 22, 2024. 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!

Flyer Fan Spotlight: Meet Karla & Mike Hudson

At Michigan Flyer, we appreciate each and every person who books a seat on one of our motorcoaches, whether it's your first time or if you've been traveling with us from the start, like Karla and Mike Hudson.

The East Lansing couple well remembers their excitement when they first heard about Michigan Flyer after our launch in 2006. A new gateway to the world had opened for two people who did not drive. They planned a trip to Disney World with their children, who were nine and 13 at the time, and loved the idea of taking a shuttle bus to Detroit Metro Airport (DTW).



Mike and Karla Hudson on a recent trip to Miami

“We weren’t sure what to expect,” Karla recalls, “but everything was done so well, and everyone associated with the Flyer was so welcoming.”

Her husband, Mike, was impressed by how luxurious our motorcoaches felt in comparison with city buses. “I also loved the ‘Why Drive’ jingle, and the excitement of our children,” he adds. “Everything was perfect—so well-choreographed—and everyone was friendly. Seatbelts were an added bonus.”

Fans from the get-go, the Hudsons—who are both blind—believed that Michigan Flyer offered them a “truly transformational” service. So, when they began relying on us to connect with DTW for family trips, they kept their fingers crossed that Michigan Flyer would grow in popularity.

“You always fear that something that works so well for you might not work as well for others, and therefore might become unavailable to folks like us long term,” Mike says.

Fortunately, Michigan Flyer weathered a few early challenges, as well as the global COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. We’ve bounced back stronger than ever, and now offer 12 daily roundtrips between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and DTW.



The Hudson family at Disney World

Advocates for Public Transportation

The Hudsons met as college students at Western Michigan University, where they lived in the same dorm. Karla grew up in Livonia, Mich., while Mike grew up in Saginaw. Before the Michigan Flyer existed, both remember hopping aboard the motorcoaches of Indian Trails (the parent company of Michigan Flyer) for their travel needs.

“I used to take a different bus home from Kalamazoo to Saginaw,” Mike recalls. “Then I switched to Indian Trails and the difference in quality was immediately noticeable.”

After college, Mike moved to East Lansing, Mich., where he now serves as director of Michigan State University’s Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, assisting some 4,000 students and employees, and helping to ensure that MSU’s campus and buildings are accessible for all.

Karla chose to be a stay-at-home mom, helping to raise Lily, now 22 and a senior at MSU, and Marshall, 18, an MSU freshman. Lily plans to become a teacher, and Marshall, a business major, is studying supply chain management.

Karla actively contributes to an MSU parents’ group on Facebook, encouraging out-of-state parents to check out Michigan Flyer as a “safe, dependable, and friendly” resource to get their college students from DTW to

East Lansing. “Once they experience it, they’re so grateful that the service exists. It offers them real peace of mind and is a treasure for our community.”

Recently, the Hudsons rode the Flyer to and from DTW during a family trip to Miami over spring break. “On the way back to East Lansing from the airport, we happened to be on board with a bunch of students from the University of Michigan. It was fun to let them know that one reason Spartan Country is so special is because it’s home to Michigan Flyer.”



Travel Alerts

✍ No Walk-Up Ticket Sales in Brighton

Brighton passengers, please be advised that tickets for Michigan Flyer are now available for advance purchase online only. This change gives our drivers a heads-up when no one is waiting to board at our Brighton stop in the Meijer parking lot. Drivers can then stay on the highway, bypass Brighton, and are better able to stay on schedule for all stops. You can buy tickets 24/7 through our website at www.MichiganFlyer.com up to two hours before your bus is due to arrive.

✍ How to Avoid Long Lines at the Airport

The Transportation Security Agency's (TSA's) PreCheck® program can help you speed through security lines at DTW and other airports nationwide. Also, travelers with TSA PreCheck® don't need to remove shoes, laptops, or light jackets when going through the checkpoint. Wait times are typically 10 minutes or less in TSA PreCheck® screening lines. Enrollment in the program is \$78 for five years, and some [credit cards will even give you a rebate on the fee](#).



You can also use [CLEAR®](#), a private service that lets you skip having to present ID documents (a driver's license, passport, etc.), since it confirms your identity with a scan of your eyes and fingerprints. CLEAR® can be used with or without TSA PreCheck® to zoom through security at most major airports. Together, they provide the quickest path to your airplane. It costs \$189 to [enroll for 12 months](#), and this fee may also be at least partly covered by a credit card you carry.

Also, be aware that TSA PreCheck® and CLEAR® are geared toward domestic travelers at U.S. airports. For international travel, check out [Global Entry](#).

In Case You Missed It ...

No Discount Parking in Ann Arbor

If you're a Michigan Flyer passenger who liked parking a car in the structure at the corner of 4th Ave. and William St. downtown, then you should know that the discount parking rate of **\$2 per day** has been discontinued. While you can still park there, the rate is **\$1.20 per hour** Monday through Saturday. If you have



For questions or comments about this change, contact the [Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority](#), which manages the structure for the city, at (734) 994-6697 or dda@a2dda.org.

Our “Hytech” Service is Gone, but CATA Micro-Transit is Coming

Much to the disappointment of some Michigan Flyer passengers, our “Hytech” door-to-door pilot project was suspended at least temporarily on Feb. 9, when funds ran out. Hytech had enabled them to use a shared minivan to connect with their bus at the East Lansing Marriott, right from—or to—the door of their home, workplace, or another location in the service area. The

project was partly funded by a competitive [Michigan Mobility](#) grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Happily, though, a somewhat similar service could be in the works. The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) [recently announced](#) that it will use a \$1.6 million grant from the Michigan Dept. of Transportation for continued regional transit coordination. CATA Board Chair Nathan Triplett said, “Mobility innovation, highlighted by on-demand microtransit programs, can expand service into previously underserved urban and rural areas that lack transportation alternatives.”

“We are aware of the demand for innovative transit services that connect people to jobs, education, healthcare and other resources in the tri-county region,” added CATA CEO Brad Funkhouser. “An intermodal microtransit program will provide residents in Lansing’s urbanized area access to public transit services, seven days a week.”



Hats Off to Our Award-Winning Safe Drivers!

We’re proud to honor the 27 Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer drivers who completed the 2023 calendar year without having a preventable accident. Theirs is a remarkable accomplishment considering the thousands of miles each has driven, often in hazardous weather or road conditions, while sharing the highways with countless unsafe drivers.

These exceptional and well-deserving drivers are recipients of the Cora V. Taylor Safe Driving Award, named after the co-founder of Indian Trails—a similarly dedicated and remarkable woman who was the first female licensed chauffeur in the U.S., and was

inducted into the Michigan Department of Transportation Hall of Honor in 2006.

The names of these safe driving award winners will be displayed on plaques at each Indian Trails location, and all will receive a bonus check in appreciation for their accomplishments. Please join us in congratulating them on a very important job well done!

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[Moulin Rouge! the Musical](#)

The winner of 10 Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, Moulin Rouge presents a world of splendor and romance, glitz, grandeur, and glory—a world where Bohemians and aristocrats rub elbows and revel in electrifying enchantment. Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film comes to life onstage in a new musical mash-up extravaganza. Directed by Tony Award® winner Alex Timbers, it's a celebration of truth, beauty, freedom, and love. Catch one of eight performances April 2-14 (times vary) at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., Michigan State University, East Lansing. [Tickets \\$50-\\$135 + fee.](#)

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



Ann Arbor

[62nd Ann Arbor Film Festival](#)

The oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America, founded in 1963, is Internationally recognized as a premiere forum for independent filmmakers and artists. The six-day festival presents 40 programs with more than 180 films from over 20 countries of all lengths and genres, including experimental, animation, documentary, fiction, and performance-based works. The Ann Arbor Film Festival receives more than 3,000 submissions annually from more than 65 countries and serves as one of only a handful of Academy Award®-qualifying festivals in the

United States.

It's screening films from March 26 to 31 (times vary) at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., and at the State Theater, 233 S. State St., in Ann Arbor. [See the schedule here](#) and the [list of films here](#). [Tickets \\$14 general admission, \\$9 seniors and members](#), per program. [Passes are also available.](#)

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

Brighton

[Assisted Living – The Musical](#)

Everything Granny tells you about aging? Forget it! From early retirement right up to pulling the plug, 21st Century seniors are partying like it's 1969. Imagine: no work, no pregnancy and a full array of Medicare-subsidized pharmaceuticals. It's the Boomer dream! And they're partying at Pelican Roost, a very active retirement community that's home to the 18 different characters played by the show's two actors. It's where 70-something is the new 20-something ... only with looser skin. One night only: Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., Brighton Center for Performing Arts, 7878 Brighton Rd., Brighton. [Tickets \\$32 adult, \\$26 senior, \\$19 student.](#)



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

[Herbie Hancock](#)

Trailblazing jazz legend Herbie Hancock returns to Detroit for a once-in-a-lifetime performance. The Academy Award and 14-time Grammy Award-winner will thrill audiences with his innovative fusion of electric jazz, funk, and rock that continues to shape the evolution of contemporary music. Now in the seventh decade of his professional life, Hancock has remained an integral part of every popular music movement since the 1960s. He was a member of the Miles Davis Quintet that pioneered a groundbreaking sound in jazz. He's been named a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, received a Kennedy Center Honor, and was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. See him perform in person on Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m., at Orchestra Hall, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$79-\\$184](#).

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 this event. Orchestra Hall is within a five-minute walk of D2A2's stop in Detroit (at 1508 Park Ave. in Grand Circus Park).

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



Sample Fares for International Flights

If you dream of exploring another country while on summer vacation, now is the time to start making it come true. That's because the sooner you start planning your trip, the less expensive your airline tickets are apt to be. Using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com), we spot-checked prices for roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) on Saturday, July 6, and returning on Saturday, July 20. Among our search criteria: Flights had to make no more than one stop or plane change in each direction, any layover between flights had to be

fairly brief, and the flight return had to arrive at DTW in time for passengers to catch our last run at 9:45 or 10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton or East Lansing.

NOTE: Lower prices than these are often available for anyone who's flexible about dates of travel, or willing to make two or more stops or plane changes. Our sample economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras."

Toronto, CAN (YYW) Air Canada \$486	Luxembourg, LUX (LUX) KLM \$1,413
Cancun, MEX (CUN) Delta \$534	Geneva, CHE (GVA) United \$1,414
Vancouver, CAN (YVR) WestJet \$539	Berlin, DEU (BER) IcelandAir \$1,417
Montreal, CAN (YUL) WestJet/Air Canada \$555	Naples, ITA (NAP) Turkish \$1,427
San Juan, PRI (SJU) American \$597	Santiago, CHL (SCL) Delta \$1,427
Nassau, BHS (NAS) American \$719	Bucharest, ROU (OTP) Turkish \$1,445
Lima, PER (LIM) LATAM Airlines \$763	Warsaw, POL (WAW) Turkish \$1,485
Reykjavik, ISL (KEF) IcelandAir \$795	Athens, GRC (ATH) Turkish \$1,512
Dublin, IRE (DUB) IcelandAir \$907	Vienna, AUS (VIA) Air Canada \$1,513
Paris, FRA (CDG) IcelandAir \$944	Madrid, ESP (MAD) British Airways \$1,522
London, GBR (LGW) IcelandAir \$1,074	Lisbon, PRT (LIS) AirFrance \$1,581
Oslo, NOR (OSL) IcelandAir + Norwegian \$1,102	Zurich, CHE (ZRH) Swiss \$1,592
Rome, ITA (FCO) IcelandAir + Wizz Air \$1,139	Buenos Aires, ARG (EZE) Delta \$1,622
Stockholm, SWE (ARN) IcelandAir \$1,217	Barcelona, ESP (BCN) British Airways
Tokyo, JPN (NRT) Air Canada \$1,222	or Air Canada \$1,518
Amsterdam, NLD (AMS) IcelandAir \$1,234	Glasgow, GBR (GLA) KLM \$1,748
Frankfurt, DEU (FRA) KLM \$1,297	Mumbai, IND (BOM) Turkish \$1,825
Helsinki, FIN (HEL) IcelandAir \$1,305	Manila, PHI (MNL) Turkish \$1,909
Brussels, BEL (BRU) IcelandAir \$1,305	New Delhi, IND (DEL) Turkish \$1,910
Copenhagen, DEN (CPH) IcelandAir \$1,326	Sydney, AUS (SYD) Delta \$2,750
Venice, ITA (VCE) Air Canada/Lufthansa \$1,376	



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](#)

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 \$22.28, provide a 6-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

Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 114-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

If you're a safe driver, we encourage you to apply. It takes a special person to become a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Simply visit one of the websites below to write a brief review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!



Happy Easter, Ramadan & Passover!

Ramadan, which in 2024 began on Sunday, March 10, will end on Tuesday, April 9. In Islam, it is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, when it is believed that the Holy Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad. This is a period of fasting during daylight hours, self-reflection, gratitude, charity toward the poor, and reading the entire Quran in order to draw closer to God. It is also a social time when Muslims meet for pre-dawn breakfasts, prayers at the mosque, and dinners after sunset. Eid al-Fitr, the "Feast of Fast-Breaking," will be celebrated on April 10 or 11 this year, marking

the end of Ramadan with games and presents for children, as well as socializing, eating, and exchanging gifts with friends and family members.

Easter is on Sunday, March 31, in 2024. The Christian feast day and holiday—famous for brightly-colored eggs, bonnets, bunnies, candy baskets, lilies, and church services—commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. That occurred three days after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary in 30 A.D., according to the Bible's New Testament.

Passover, which lasts from sundown on Monday, April 22, to sundown on Tuesday, April 30, in 2024, is the major Jewish celebration marking the Exodus of the Children of Israel from slavery in ancient Egypt. The first

night often involves great ceremony around a special family meal called the seder, where foods such as [matzo](#)—symbolic of liberation—are eaten, and traditional recitations are performed.

Curious about spring holidays celebrated by other religions? [Just click here for descriptions of some of their festivities.](#)

Why Drive?

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



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