



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



e-news

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Important Updates on Michigan Flyer-AirRide Service

As many regular E-News readers know, we restarted operations on April 26 with [eight daily roundtrips](#) between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport. Despite the understandable hesitancy of some folks to travel as the coronavirus pandemic seems to be winding down, about 140 people a day have chosen to ride with us during the past few weeks.

Welcome back! We've certainly missed you over the past year, and are most grateful for the opportunity to serve you again. Here are some key things to keep in mind as we move ahead:



When to Mask or Unmask

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that people who are “fully vaccinated” can now resume [many normal activities](#) without wearing a mask or physically distancing. (This only applies to those who are two weeks past their second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.) Everyone else should keep using masks and physical distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19. And, on the honor system, hopefully they will.

As you might expect, this has caused some confusion, especially among travelers. Here's the deal: You are still [required to wear a mask](#) on planes, buses, trains,

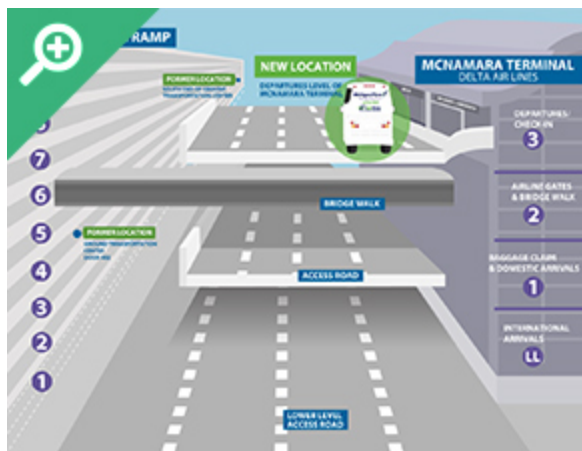
and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. **This includes Michigan Flyer-AirRide.**

To see the specific CDC guidelines [CLICK HERE](#).

Book Early to Guarantee a Seat

We continue to limit the capacity of each bus to 50 percent as a pandemic precaution, so please make your reservations early in order to guarantee that we have space for you.

In line with other transportation carriers (such as Delta Airlines and Greyhound, which have already done so), we will be lifting our capacity restriction effective June 14. Also, we plan to expand capacity by increasing our daily roundtrips from eight to 12 as soon as we can hire and train enough professional drivers to operate the runs.



How to Find Us at DTW's McNamara (Delta) Terminal

Longtime passengers may remember that, years ago, Michigan Flyer-AirRide was located in the Grand Transportation Center of DTW's McNamara Terminal. Not anymore.

Currently, we pick up and drop off all passengers at a single stop on the Departures Level (also known as Level 3) of the McNamara Terminal, as we did pre-pandemic. This is the terminal used by Delta Air Lines and its partner carriers Air France and Aeromexico.

Please follow [signs like these](#) for "Municipal Transportation" and "Ticketing/Check-In." They will help guide you to our location for both drop-offs and pickups on Level 3 (a.k.a. Departures Level). Our stop is just outside and to the left of the doors labeled "International Ticketing/Check-In, Air France, Aeromexico."

Once outside, when you see an "AirRide Route 787" sign on a metal post, you will know you have reached the correct location. If you need assistance, just ask an airport official "How do I get to check-in for Air France?"

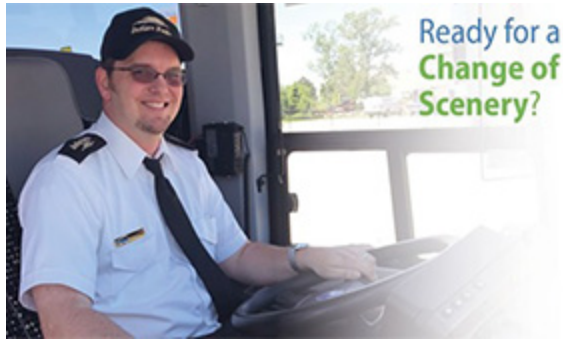
Be aware that NOT all elevators go up to Departures Level 3, where our Michigan Flyer-AirRide stop is located. Be sure to take an elevator that goes all the way up to "Ticketing/Check-In" on Level 3.

DO NOT follow signs that say "Bridge Walk to Parking" or "Ground Transportation Center."

Start a New Career as a Bus Driver

Would you—or someone you know—be interested in a professional driving career where travel and adventure come standard? Would you like to be paid while training for the job, and get help in obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)?

If so, you're in luck! Michigan Flyer's parent company, Indian Trails, Inc.—which provides the professional drivers who operate our motorcoaches—is now hiring! The company offers a comprehensive, paid training



program and CDL class to set you up for success in a driving career. After that, you'll be feeling confident and ready to hit the road in just 4-6 weeks.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that our passengers experience world-class customer service and reach their destinations safely and on time.

In return for this most important work, Indian Trails—a 110-year-old, family-owned company based in Owosso, Mich.—prides itself on providing an employee-friendly atmosphere along with a host of benefits such as:

- ✓ \$3,000 sign-on bonus
- ✓ Paid training
- ✓ Competitive salary
- ✓ Two weeks of paid time off during the first year
- ✓ Medical, dental, and vision insurance
- ✓ 401(k) retirement program with employer match
- ✓ Company-provided life insurance
- ✓ Annual uniforms provided
- ✓ Annual safety bonus
- ✓ Employee referral bonuses
- ✓ Paid hotel and meal allowances on multi-day trips
- ✓ Employee recognition events
- ✓ Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches



We encourage anyone, including those without any previous commercial driving experience, to apply. We are also a Certified Veteran-Friendly Employer and welcome all veterans.

Please visit our website to find out more or to apply: <https://www.indiantrails.com/careers>.

To hear from our own Jennifer Freeman, HR Generalist, about what it's like to work for us as a Motorcoach Operator, simply [CLICK HERE](#).

A Salute to Al Kline, 2.5-Million-Mile Safe Driver

Back in 2014, Phillip "Al" Kline achieved a rare feat among the bus drivers for our parent company, Indian Trails: He reached the two million mile mark as a safe driver—having gone the distance without an avoidable accident. He's one of only five drivers in the 110-year history of the company to have done so. Kline received his first "Million-Mile Award" for safe driving in 1998.

When he retired earlier this year after 45 years of service, Kline had logged a remarkable 2,516,384 miles of driving without an avoidable accident.



To put that in perspective, two million miles equals 80 trips around the Earth or four trips to the Moon and back. Just to reach one million miles, a motorcoach driver must log an average of 50,000 miles annually for 20 years.

An Owosso, Mich., native, Kline first signed on with Indian Trails in 1976. Though he'd grown up on a farm and loved working with machinery, he had no desire to follow in his father's footsteps into farming. So he signed on with Indian Trails to become a driver.

After thorough training, he started out with a regular daily route, and then later switched to piloting group

charters. During his career, he traveled through all but six U.S. states, and every province of Canada except Newfoundland.

Over the years, Kline had some close calls, including two accidents, but of course neither his fault. After one of them—and being checked over at a hospital—Kline showed up for work the next day as usual.

"Indian Trails was phenomenal," he says. "The executives were all there at the bus garage to make sure I was okay. If I felt I wasn't, they told me, they'd be happy to call in a substitute driver. For me though, it was like falling off a bike. You just have to get back on."



Phillip 'Al' Kline 1976

More Than a Job

Kline expected to form some friendships with co-workers, and he did. But what he hadn't anticipated were the many friendships he would develop along the way with Indian Trails' customers.

"That's the number one best thing about this job," he says. "For example, back in the 1980s, I drew a charter assignment for a woman who organized trips with her friends. After the first trip, she kept requesting me as a driver. We ended up going all over the country together on excursions that eventually included my wife and friends from Owosso. We had so much fun."

What does he miss most after being retired a few months? "The driving," Kline says. "I like being out on the road and I miss the vantage point of sitting up high in the driver's seat with an expansive view. It's definitely not the same as in a car."

Happily, he's found a part-time job driving a big rig to grain elevators around Michigan for a local farmer.

Another change for Kline has been the newfound time to devote to improving his health. "I started walking several miles a day and eating healthier meals. I've lost more than 45 pounds over the past year."

Then and Now

Back when Kline started with Indian Trails, it was more common than not to stay with one company throughout



a career. And Kline has no regrets about doing so.

“At Indian Trails, I was fortunate to be trained by the best veteran drivers. I was also lucky to develop some lifelong friendships, and to meet some amazing people along the way,” he says. “I had a wonderful time working for this company, and I wouldn’t have traded it for the world.”

“The entire Indian Trails family offers a heartfelt salute to Al Kline on his nearly five decades of exemplary service,” says Chad Cushman, president of Indian Trails. “Al’s distinguished career with us began on Feb. 2, 1976. In addition to recognition for more than two

million miles of safe driving since then, he has received countless annual awards and well-deserved accolades from employees and customers alike.”

Indian Trails has honored 28 drivers since the late 1980s for going one million miles without an avoidable accident. Their safe-driving success is due to a culture of safety instilled partly through a rigorous training program provided by the company. It includes 40-plus hours of classroom instruction plus three to four weeks of on-the-road experience with driving instructors.



On Memorial Day, We Honor Those Who Gave Their Lives in Our Armed Forces

It didn’t start out as the unofficial start of summer with picnics, parades, and department store sales. Originally called Decoration Day in 1868, it began as a way to remember the 620,000 people killed during the Civil War by decorating their graves. The first national celebration of the holiday took place at Arlington National Cemetery, where both Confederate and Union

soldiers were buried.

At the turn of the century it was renamed Memorial Day. A federal law enacted in 1971 designated observance of the holiday on the last Monday in May, and extended the honor to all soldiers who died in American wars. Today, national observance of Memorial Day still takes place at Arlington National Cemetery with the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the decoration of each grave with a small American flag.

Do you have plans for Memorial Day weekend? Consider [these Michigan destinations](#) for your next getaway.

Why Drive?

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



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