



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



e-news

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Kim Anderson

Meet Driver Kim Anderson

When veteran school bus driver Kim Anderson first stepped onto an Indian Trails motorcoach, it felt like an upgrade from economy to first class.

"These are the Cadillacs of buses," says Kim, who had previously driven for Perry Public Schools and school systems in Michigan's Shiawassee County. "They're the best buses on the road."

A far cry from what she had been driving, our motorcoaches have all the bells and whistles, including a global positioning system for vehicle tracking and driver electronic logging, wireless public address system, three-point seat belts, reclining seats, USB power outlets for charging mobile devices, head and

foot rests, individual reading lamps and climate controls, onboard lavatory, and much more.

A Perry native who now lives in Laingsburg, Mich., Kim began working for our parent company, Indian Trails, Inc., in 2011. "I was looking for a job with benefits," she said. "I didn't have those as a school bus driver in a small district, plus there was no pay during the summer."

Although Kim already had her commercial driver's license, she still had to undergo the same rigorous Indian Trails five-week training program as all of our new drivers. "For a driver, the differences between a school bus

and a luxury motorcoach are like night and day,” she says. “It’s a great training program. I felt very confident the first time I hit the road.”

With Indian Trails, she drove daily scheduled runs to Chicago and back, and sometimes handled shuttle and group charter trips. In 2018, she switched to Michigan Flyer. “I’d driven occasionally for Michigan Flyer for years, and was looking for a more regular schedule. As with Indian Trails, it’s great working with the people here.”

People Skills

Kim also appreciates the passengers she serves. “The best part of this job is getting to meet people from all walks of life,” she says. “I meet some really fascinating people, and I’m always learning something from them.”

Besides the skill it takes to maneuver a motorcoach, Kim says it’s a real asset for a driver to enjoy working with people: “We deal with lots of people with different personalities and needs. So it’s important to be alert for signs that some folks might need extra help, such as passengers from other countries who aren’t fluent in English and need assurance that they’re heading in the right direction.”

“Also, I try to start every day in a positive way and to stay that way,” she adds. “If someone is in a bad mood, I try to turn it around for them by asking, ‘Is there something I can do to help you?’”

Always Moving Forward

Having grown up near Owosso (Indian Trails’ headquarters), Kim was familiar with the company long before she began working there. Still, during her training as a driver, she was surprised to learn about its 109-year history in the community, and how innovative it’s been in meeting the needs of passengers.

A recent example was the October launch of a regular Michigan Flyer stop in Brighton for passengers connecting with flights at Detroit Metro Airport, as well as commuting to or from Ann Arbor or East Lansing.

“It’s off to a great start,” says Kim. “I’ve seen the need for it, and have found that it’s especially appreciated by pilots and flight attendants who live in the Brighton area.”

While she’s grateful for the opportunity to work with passengers, Kim makes sure to schedule time off—like many other Michiganders—for the start of deer hunting season on Nov. 15.

“I’ve been an avid hunter for about 25 years now, along with my husband. Venison is a staple on our Thanksgiving table.”



Speed through Airport Security by Enrolling in TSA PreCheck

Did you know? It’s now possible to get through airport security screening by agents of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in less than five minutes—and to avoid the stress of long lines, pat-downs, and having to remove your shoes, belt, jacket, watch, and laptop for inspection.

The [TSA PreCheck program](#) is designed to speed you through the screening process and onto your plane. For an \$85 nonrefundable application fee, you can enroll in it for five years. Even better, that fee may be covered completely as a [benefit of a credit card](#) you already carry.

Since TSA Pre✓® is offered for domestic departures from more than 200 airports and 73 airlines nationwide, even infrequent fliers are apt to find it worthwhile to sign up. (However, international travelers are better served by a similar program called [Global Entry](#), which includes PreCheck and covers entry into the U.S. from foreign destinations, whether by air, land or sea.)

The process of enrolling in TSA Pre✓® is fairly simple and straight-forward:

1. Pre-Enroll Online

By filling in [this short form](#) with your name, date of birth, address, citizenship, or immigration documentation, and schedule a brief background-check appointment at a local enrollment center. To find the closest center, just type in your zip code in [here](#).

2. Get the Background Check

During your visit at the PreCheck enrollment center, which will take about 10-15 minutes, you'll be required to provide basic information about yourself and your travel habits, plus specific documentation, and your fingerprints. So, before going, [check here](#) to make sure you have the right documents.

A state issued driver's license, along with a passport, may be all you need. But something more might be required. For instance, if your driver's license has your married name and your birth certificate has your maiden name, you'll also have to provide a marriage certificate that links the name on the birth certificate with the name on the driver's license. [See page 2 at this link](#) for other examples. In addition, you'll need to bring a credit card or cashier's check to pay the \$85 fee.

3. Use Your KTN

Most people who apply for TSA PreCheck receive written notice of approval within a few days or weeks of the background interview. But don't expect an ID card or some other credential. The notification will just include a nine-digit Known Traveler Number (KTN).

If you provide the KTN each time you make flight reservations, a TSA Pre✓® indicator will be printed on your boarding pass, and the KTN will be embedded in the barcode of the pass. When TSA scans it at the security checkpoint—voila!—you will then usually be directed to the speedy PreCheck lane, having been deemed a low-risk traveler.



Travel Alerts

Planning to Ride with Us Next Week? Book Seats Now

The week of Thanksgiving is always a time of peak demand for Michigan Flyer-AirRide, as people travel to share the holiday with their families. So, if you're planning to ride with us next week, book your reservation ASAP to ensure that we have room for you on one of our coaches.

Detroit Metro Airport Now Allows Non-Ticketed Passengers Past Security

For the first time since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center, people who are not airline passengers are being allowed past security checkpoints at the Detroit airport. So, folks without plane tickets can accompany friends or family members to the gates, greet them when they return, or visit shops and restaurants that are usually restricted to passengers only.

However, this doesn't mean anyone can just sashay into the airport's secure area at will. Through a pilot program called "[DTW Destination Pass](#)," those interested must [apply for a pass](#) on the airport's website between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the day before their visit. If approved, they get an email with instructions for picking up a pass at the airport, where they must present a driver's license or passport.

The pilot program allows up to 75 people a day to visit the secure side of the airport between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Such visitors are subject to the same security screening and regulations as airline passengers. While the program is expected to end on January 5, it may become permanent after the airport evaluates its cost, as well as the survey responses of participants.

Blake Transit Center Bypassed on U-M Football Saturdays

On each Saturday when the Wolverines football team plays a home game at the Big House, several of our scheduled runs will NOT stop at the Blake Transit Center in downtown Ann Arbor. Instead, due to road closures and detours, these motorcoaches will bypass the BTC and go to the Kensington Court Hotel. This will affect some runs before, during, and after the remaining U-M home game:

- Nov. 30: Ohio State, noon

Please note that some Michigan Flyer-AirRide runs will continue to stop at the BTC on this day. It's easy to find out which ones. Just use the "Book a Trip" feature on our website.



Customer Comments

"My first trip was Nov. 13 coming home from DTW to Brighton. Absolutely wonderful experience! Price was right, bus was amazing - complimentary WiFi, electric outlets at each seat, reclining seats, clean and comfortable (including an onboard bathroom). Already booking my next trip."

—L.P., Brighton, Mich.



Cheap Flights to Warm Weather

With winter looming, this may be just the right time to plan a getaway that follows the sun south to warmer climes. As luck and airline competition would have it, there are plenty of cheap fares available.

For example, Spirit Airlines is offering roundtrip flights between Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) and Cancun (CAN), Mexico, for just \$207 in January and February 2020. Find these on the airline's website at [Spirit.com](#).

There are terrific deals for U.S. vacation destinations, too. Using the sample trip dates of Friday Jan. 10 to Saturday Jan. 18, we searched [SkyScanner.com](#) for the cheapest published roundtrip fares from DTW to

“everywhere.” As part of our criteria, both the departing and return flights had to be nonstop. Also, the return flight had to arrive in time for you to catch our last daily Michigan Flyer-AirRide run from the airport to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East Lansing.

We found the following basic economy fares, which include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other “extras.”

- **Orlando, Fla.** (MCO) \$75 on Spirit Airlines
- **Atlanta, Ga.** (ATL) \$81 on Spirit
- **Austin, Texas** (AUS) \$113 on Spirit or \$139 on Delta Airlines
- **Ft Lauderdale, Fla.** (FLL) \$119 on Spirit
- **Raleigh-Durham, N.C.** (RDU) \$119 on Delta
- **Phoenix, Az.** (PHX) \$147 on Frontier Airlines
- **Miami, Fla.** (MIA) \$149 on Frontier
- **Ft. Meyers** (RSW) or **Jacksonville** (JAX), **Fla.**, \$157 on Delta

Please note that even lower fares may be available to these destinations, especially if you’re flexible about travel dates.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There

East Lansing

✍ [Silver Bells in the City](#). Downtown Lansing glows with thousands of lights for this annual holiday kick-off celebration, which includes the Electric Light Parade, Silver Bells Village, lighting of the State Christmas Tree, musical entertainment, and “one very special guest.” Starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, it’s at the corner of Michigan and Capitol Aves. Check out the [event brochure here](#). Admission: Free.



✍ [MSU Men's Basketball vs. Duke](#). The two highly ranked rivals clash again in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Breslin Student Events Center, 534 Birch Rd., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. It’s bound to be a grudge match, after the Spartan’s thrilling 68-67 win over the Blue Devils to reach last year’s Final Four. Tickets are still [available on StubHub](#), starting at \$128.50.

✍ [Wonderland of Lights](#). Recurring weekly 5 p.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday, Thursday, and Friday through Dec. 29 at Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. The zoo is transformed into a magical winter wonderland with thousands of holiday lights and extraordinary displays. Kids’ activities, entertainment and festive animal friends make it fun for the whole family. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 for kids 3-12, free for kids under 3 years old. (Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.)

✍ [Ice Age: Frozen Secrets](#). Recurring Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. until Jan. 5, it’s at [Impression 5 Science Center](#), 200 Museum Dr., downtown Lansing. Take a step back 1.8 million years in this 2,500-square-foot hands-on traveling exhibit. Experience extinct animal recreations and real fossils up to 500 million years old. Learn about the last Ice Age, as well as creatures like the saber-tooth cat, dire wolf, and early humans. Team up to put together a huge 3D mastodon puzzle, and dig for fossils.

Admission: \$8.50 adults and children 2 or older, \$7 seniors, military members and immediate family, free for children 1 or younger.



 **Disney's Aladdin**. This hit Broadway musical from the producer of The Lion King tells the timeless story of Aladdin in a production filled with beauty, magic, comedy and spectacle where one lamp and three wishes make the possibilities infinite. Recurring daily Dec. 5-15, times vary, at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, on the MSU campus in East Lansing. Tickets start at \$35.

Capital Area Transportation Authority buses can get you from our location at the East Lansing Marriot to downtown Lansing in about 30 minutes, or near Potter Park Zoo in about 45 minutes for \$1.25. See [Google Transit directions here](#) or use [CATA's Trip Planner](#).

Note that our schedules make it easy for East Lansing residents to attend events in Ann Arbor, and then return with us the same evening. But for Ann Arbor residents going to evening events in the Lansing area, there's more involved. Our last eastbound run of the day leaves the East Lansing Marriott at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, and at 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday. So, folks from A2 would need to stay overnight in East Lansing or arrange alternate transportation home.

Find more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar: www.lansing.org/events.

Ann Arbor



 **U-M Football vs. Ohio State**. The Wolverines (7-2) take on the Buckeyes (9-0) in the big game at the Big House, noon on Saturday, Nov. 30, Michigan Stadium, 1201 S. State St., Ann Arbor. [Tickets available at Stubhub](#) starting at \$137.

 **Big Band Holidays - Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra w/ Wynton Marsalis**. Celebrate the most

wonderful time of the year with seasonal big band arrangements of songs both sacred and secular. It's at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, at Hill Auditorium, 1825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [Tickets range from \\$22 to \\$81](#).

 **The Nutcracker**, presented by the Academy of Russian Classical Ballet and the Michigan Classical Ballet, is a must-see holiday event for the entire family. Join Clara on her magical journey through the enchanting Land of Snow to the Kingdom of the Sweets. The cast of Michigan's talented ballet students is joined by international professional ballet dancers as guest artists. It's at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets \$34-\$45.

Check the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar for more local events: <https://www.visitannarbor.org/splash/events>.

Brighton



✍ [Brighton's Holiday Glow](#). This annual event launches the holiday season, filling downtown with beautiful lights, music, real-life reindeer, a visit from Emma the Elf, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will also enjoy Nutcracker performances from the Brighton City Ballet, sing-alongs, horse-drawn hay rides, the Jollie Choo-Choo train, a nativity petting farm, arts and crafts, and tasty treats. It's from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 200 N. First St., Brighton. Admission: Free.

✍ [Nuncrackers – The Nunsense Christmas Musical](#). Livingston County's newest professional theatre, A Wilde Theatre, presents a "TV Christmas Special" filled with "Nunsense" at the Brighton Coffeehouse and Theater, 306 W. Main St., Brighton.

Two fun-loving sisters produce a cable show filled with song, dance, comedy, skits, and a special cameo visit from everyone's favorite nun-puppet, St. Mary Annette. Performances at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (Dec. 6, 7, 13 & 14) and 2 p.m. on Sunday (Dec. 8 & 15). Tickets \$29 including processing fees.

Brighton, along with the other communities of 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/.



Stress-Reducing Travel Tips

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

✍ [Download Our Free Smartphone App to Track Your Bus in Real Time.](#)

✍ [Change Your Own Reservations Online, Sometimes.](#)

✍ [Buy an Affordable Travel Insurance Policy.](#)

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please use the review sites below to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help them to understand how our service might improve their travels.





Happy Thanksgiving!

On this Thanksgiving, all of us at Michigan Flyer-AirRide want to express our deepest gratitude for the 2 million+ passengers who've ridden with us—and contributed to our success—since we began operating in 2006. We simply can't thank you enough for your loyal patronage. As Thanksgiving history tells us, surviving the difficult early years is crucial, and often depends on help from your friends.

You may remember from school lessons that the first Thanksgiving took place nearly 300 years ago, in 1621, one year after 102 "Pilgrims" from Plymouth, England, reached the New World on a 66-day voyage across the Atlantic in their ship Mayflower. Due to exposure, scurvy, and disease, only 22 men, four women and 25 children survived the first winter in their colony at what would eventually become Plymouth, Massachusetts.

A Native American named Squanto of the Pawtuxet tribe taught the desperate Pilgrims how to grow corn, make syrup from maple sap, catch fish from the rivers, and hunt birds like turkey, ducks, and geese. He also helped them become friends with the local Wampanoag tribe. So in 1621, the Plymouth colonists celebrated their survival by sharing a harvest feast with the Wampanoag Indians. It's widely recognized as the first Thanksgiving celebration.

For more than 200 years afterwards, days of thanks were declared by individual colonies and states. Then, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that Thanksgiving Day be celebrated nationwide each November. That was the direct result of a 36-year campaign by magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale, who wrote countless editorials and letters urging politicians to create the holiday. In so doing, she earned the nickname "Mother of Thanksgiving." Fun fact: She also wrote the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

More fun facts:

- ✍ The first Thanksgiving feast included many wild turkeys plus five deer brought by the Wampanoags. Vegetables that may have been served include onions, beans, spinach, cabbage, carrots, and corn; fruits common to the area were cranberries, blueberries, plums, grapes, and raspberries.
- ✍ The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade took place in New York in 1924, staged by store employees and featuring animals from Central Park Zoo. The first giant hot air balloons appeared in the parade three years later.
- ✍ In 1934, the Detroit Lions played their first Thanksgiving Day football game against the Chicago Bears; it was broadcast nationwide on NBC radio. The game was first televised in 1956.
- ✍ Meanwhile, Congress made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941.

Why Drive?

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



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www.michiganflyer.com



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