



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



e-news

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New Schedule Gives You More Options for DTW Flights

In case you missed it, Michigan Flyer is making it easier for you to connect with approximately 700 daily nonstop flights between Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) and top domestic and international destinations. Our schedule recently grew from nine to 12 roundtrips per day. We added three Eastbound runs #8000, #8004, and #8024, along with three Westbound runs #8001, #8005, and #8023 as shown [HERE](#).

Take Cancun, for Example

Our early morning Eastbound runs help passengers connect with the cheapest flights out of DTW. Using the sample dates of Jan. 10-Jan. 17, 2024, we found roundtrip flights to Cancun, Mexico, for just \$194 on Spirit and Frontier Airlines departing DTW at 6:17 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. That's quite a bargain compared with 12:00 p.m. departures by AeroMexico/Delta priced at \$481.

Meanwhile, the later Westbound runs in our expanded schedule benefit passengers who've long wanted our last bus of the day to leave the airport at 9:45 or 10 p.m. instead of 8:15 or 8:30 p.m. You can book reservations on the new runs through our website at www.MichiganFlyer.com.



Jessa Shortridge

Revealing “Love Connections” Contest Winner #5

Our 2023 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. Based on which essays best fit the contest theme, Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants select the winners from among the many fine entries we receive. (Please note that each winner is notified in the month their entry is to be published).

We revealed our first four runner-up winners in the E-News of [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), and [October](#). Now, we’re pleased to announce that winner #5 is ... **Jessa Shortridge** of Traverse City, Mich.

While growing up in East Lansing, Mich., the Michigan Flyer was a regular part of Jessa’s life. “My family lived blocks away from the Marriott hotel and we had relatives across the country that we visited. So, often we’d just walk over and hop onto the Flyer.”

It was also the Flyer that helped reunite Jessa with her long-distance boyfriend, Dante Billeci, when she came home for the holidays last year from Münster, Germany, where she’d been teaching English.

Jessa met Dante, who’s from the Bay Area in California, when they had served as counselors and teachers at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in western Michigan. Today, they live in Traverse City. She’s a middle school German teacher and he’s a band teacher in nearby Suttons Bay.

“Traveling on the Flyer just takes a lot of stress off your plate,” says Jessa. “It’s clean, comfortable and the outlets and Wi-Fi are great. The drivers and staff are always nice and respectful. It’s very chill.”

When she got our call about her winning entry, Jessa was “blown away. I remembered entering the contest, but I was super surprised to win. And for a teacher, a \$100 gift card is awesome!” She adds that she may use the gift card to buy Christmas gifts plus maybe a little something for herself. Here’s her story:



Jessa and Dante

Anticipation and Reunion

By Jessa Shortridge

Long-distance relationships truly bring out the joys and struggles of what it means to be with another person. Nothing hurts more than the lonely nights, but you value every second spent in each other’s presence. My boyfriend Dante and I know this well, having spent most of our relationship apart. We went to college in two different states, but once I accepted a Fulbright scholarship and moved to Germany for the year to teach English, weeks apart have become months. On December 23, Dante and I were going to finally be reunited—him flying into Detroit from California, me flying in from Frankfurt, Germany. And then the Bomb Cyclone hit. We both changed our flights, and our Michigan Flyer tickets for Christmas Eve, hoping we could both make it safe and sound for our Michigan

Christmas. Luck was on our side, and our new travel plans went smoothly. Once my flight arrived, I went through border control, feeling my heartbeat quicken with every step. This was really it! When I walked out of the International Arrivals exit, the first person I saw was Dante. We fell into each other's arms, holding each other tight. I don't know how long we hugged, but eventually we had a bus to catch. On the way to the McNamara Terminal bus stop, we held hands the entire time. We found seats together near the back. I leaned my head on his shoulder, feeling the simple comfort of his warmth. As the bus rolled along, taking us back toward my parents' house in East Lansing, we were greeted by sleepy drifts of snow and twinkling lights on houses and trees. There really is no place like home for the holidays, and on that bus in Dante's arms, I felt right at home.



Discount Parking to be Eliminated in Ann Arbor

If you're a Michigan Flyer-AirRide passenger who's used to parking a car in the structure at the corner of 4th Ave. and William St. downtown, then you should know that the discounted parking rate of **\$2 per day** is going away soon. As of Jan. 8, 2024, the rate will be **\$1.20 per hour** Monday through Saturday. The [Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority](#) (DDA), which manages the structure for the city, will no longer offer the discounted parking rates. If you have questions about this impending change, please contact the DDA

by phone at (734) 994-6697 or email at dda@a2dda.org.



Travel Alerts

Turkey Day Schedule Changes

Due in part to the Ann Arbor [Turkey Trot](#) on Thursday, Nov. 23, Michigan Flyer-AirRide will be running a partial schedule at most locations (Ann Arbor, Brighton, East Lansing, and Detroit Metro Airport). To see which stops we will be making that day, just use the "Book a Trip" feature at MichiganFlyer.com.

Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center Bypassed for U-M vs. Ohio State

If you are planning a trip with Michigan Flyer-AirRide between Ann Arbor and East Lansing or Detroit Metro Airport next Saturday, please know that some of our runs will bypass the BTC on the way to and from Detroit Metro Airport. This will affect some of our runs before, during, and after the Nov. 25 Ohio State game. However, some Michigan Flyer runs will continue to stop at the BTC that day. To find out which ones, just check the "Book a Trip" feature on [our website](#).

Don't Say We Didn't Warn You ...

If you're planning a trip with us around the Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year holiday, please be aware that this is a peak travel period. Millions of people are traveling to visit family and friends, and masses of college students are migrating to and from campuses. So, in order to guarantee that we have a seat for you, it's wise to make your Michigan Flyer reservations ASAP.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

HAIRSPRAY

Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical comedy phenomenon is back on tour with an all new production! Join 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad in 1960s Baltimore as she sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. Can a girl with big dreams (and even bigger hair) change the world?

The show features a score of hit songs, including "Welcome to the '60s," "Good Morning Baltimore," and "You Can't Stop the Beat." HAIRSPRAY is "fresh, winning, and deliriously tuneful!" said the New York Times. It's an "exhilaratingly funny and warm-hearted

musical comedy," the New Yorker agreed.

Performances daily between Nov. 28 and Dec. 3 (times vary) at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., Michigan State University, East Lansing. [Tickets \\$39-\\$130 plus fee.](#)



© Matt Christine Photography

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

Also coming to the Wharton Center (see above) is the annual concert tour of Mannheim Steamroller on Thursday, Dec. 14, for one show only at 7:30 p.m. This year's show will feature classic Christmas hits from the group's holiday albums along with dazzling multimedia effects. Experience the magic as the spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller. [Tickets \\$40-\\$99 plus fee.](#)

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing™ calendar: <http://www.lansing.org/events>.

Ann Arbor

Holiday Pops 2023

Experience this can't-miss event with the whole family, and revel in the festive cheer as guest conductor Stilian Kirov leads the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in the music that defines the most magical of seasons. Featuring an evening full of classic hits, plus new orchestral arrangements, special guest appearances, poignant audience participation, and more. This southeast Michigan tradition happens at 7 p.m. on Dec. 16, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$12.50-\\$75.](#)



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

BSB Presents: The Nutcracker Ballet

Brighton School of Ballet proudly presents its 37th production of the holiday classic, The Nutcracker. This stunning production features more than 100 local dancers and gymnasts, along with professional guest artists Michaela King and Alex Vrba courtesy of Madison Ballet. This year, BSB also welcomes Ben Hansen from Grand Rapids School of Dance in the role of the Nutcracker. Immerse yourself in Nutcracker magic: see the Christmas tree grow before your eyes, and the dancing dolls come to life as you travel to the

Land of the Sweets. See this beautiful performance for yourself at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3, Brighton Center for the Performing Arts, 7878 Brighton Rd., Brighton. [Tickets \\$30](#).

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

Disney's Frozen

From the producer of The Lion King and Aladdin, Frozen, the Tony®-nominated Best Musical, is heralded by The New Yorker as “thrilling” and “genuinely moving.” Frozen features songs you know and love from the original Oscar®-winning film, plus an expanded score with a dozen new numbers by the film’s songwriters. An unforgettable theatrical experience filled with sensational special effects,

stunning sets and costumes, and powerhouse performances, Frozen is everything you want in a musical: It’s moving. It’s spectacular. And it’s pure Broadway joy. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. [Tickets \\$35-\\$150](#).



Mariah Carey: Merry Christmas One and All!

The Queen of Christmas and music icon Mariah Carey brings her holiday extravaganza to Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit, on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. This festive event is a celebration of the global superstar’s timeless collection of Christmas classics including the mega-hit, “All I Want For Christmas Is You,” [Tickets \\$79-\\$510+](#).

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor’s Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit’s Grand Circus Park

can get Ann Arbor-area riders to and from these events. Little Caesar’s Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2’s stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.

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/>.



Airfares for a Holiday Getaway

How about planning a vacation during the two weeks that include both Christmas and New Year's Day? To check out the possibilities for a sample trip between Friday, Dec. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 6, we used [SkyScanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com) to search for low-priced domestic roundtrips originating at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW).

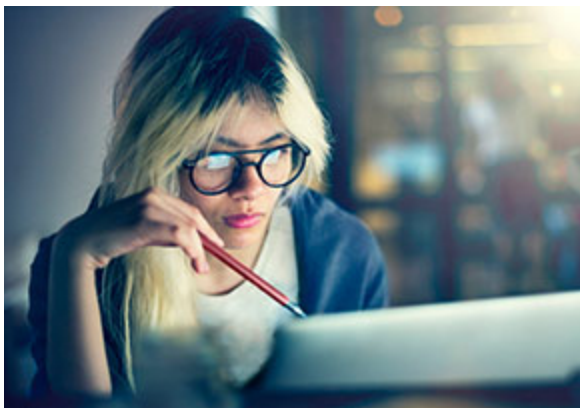
Our search criteria required that the flights be non-stop in both directions, and the return had to arrive at DTW in time for you to catch Michigan Flyer's last run at 9:45 p.m./10:00 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton, and East

Lansing. The following economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

New York, NY (LGA) Spirit **\$67**
Atlanta, GA (ATL) Frontier **\$84**
Minneapolis, MN (MSP) Spirit **\$166**
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit **\$199**
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit+Frontier **\$202**
Boston, MA (BOS) Delta **\$208**
Chicago, IL (ORD) Delta **\$219**
Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit **\$219**
Tampa, FL (TPA) Frontier **\$219**
Washington, DC (DCA) Endeavor/Delta **\$228**
Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta **\$245**
St. Louis, MO (STL) Delta **\$252**
Richmond, VA (RIC) Endeavor/Delta **\$259**
Lexington, KY (LEX) Endeavor/Delta **\$278**
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American **\$297**
New Orleans, LA (MSY) Delta **\$298**

Myrtle Beach, NC (MYR) Delta **\$298**
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit **\$329**
Philadelphia, PA (PHL) American **\$354**
Charleston, SC (CHS) Delta **\$358**
Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit **\$364**
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Frontier **\$376**
Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta **\$388**
Denver, CO (DEN) Delta **\$390**
Durham, NC (RDU) Delta **\$438**
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Delta **\$448**
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta **\$508**
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta **\$538**
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta **\$548**
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta **\$658**
Seattle, WA (SEA) Delta **\$693**
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta **\$1,789**

Please note that you can find even lower prices and more choices if you're flexible about dates of travel and/or willing to change planes at least once enroute to your destination.



Tips for Smarter Travel

- ✍ [Use a Hytch Van to Connect with MI Flyer in East Lansing](#)
- ✍ [Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this Link](#)
- ✍ [Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker](#)



Professional Drivers Wanted

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 \$21.42, provide a 6-week PAID training program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, 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

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, even with no commercial driving experience. 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 rate your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!



Five Fun Facts About Thanksgiving

1. The practice of giving thanks at harvest time goes back to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Likewise, the indigenous peoples who occupied what is now known as North America gave thanks at harvest feasts for centuries before Europeans appeared on their shores. So, Thanksgiving has always been more than a four-day weekend when we feast with family and friends, and then start Christmas shopping on Black Friday.

2. Persecuted for separating from the Church of England, a group of English people set out for America as Pilgrims. In all, 102 souls sailed on the Mayflower on Sept. 6, 1620, and arrived at what is now Provincetown, Mass., on Nov. 21. They settled near Plymouth Rock on Dec. 22. After surviving a brutal winter and then successfully raising food crops with the help of indigenous people, they gave thanks at a three-day harvest feast with the Wampanoag Native Americans in autumn 1621.

3. On Nov. 26, 1789—in honor of the new U.S. Constitution—President George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26, 1789, as a day of public thanksgiving in gratitude for God's grace in helping to found a new nation. The country had recently emerged from the Revolutionary War for independence from Great Britain.



4. For decades thereafter, Thanksgiving across the U.S. was celebrated on various dates determined by state governors. Then on Nov. 26, 1863—about four months after the Union Army’s victory in the Civil War’s bloody Battle of Gettysburg—President Abraham Lincoln called upon Americans to “observe the last Thursday of November ... as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.”

5. On Nov. 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill into law officially creating the federal holiday of Thanksgiving—a day devoted to grateful reflection on our many blessings.

Why Drive?

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



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