



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



e-news

OCTOBER 2023



Michigan Flyer Schedule - 12 Roundtrips Every Day East Lansing→ Brighton→ Ann Arbor→ Detroit Metro					
EASTBOUND	East Lansing Marriott	Brighton Meijer	Ann Arbor Blake Transit Center***	DTW McNamara Terminal**	D Evening Terminal
Daily Runs	333 Albert Ave., East Lansing	8650 W. Grand River, Brighton	328 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor	Departures Level Ticketing & Check-in Airfrance	Stall #1 Ground Transportation Center
8000	2:00 AM	2:48 AM	3:15 AM	3:50 AM	4:00 AM
8002	3:30 AM	4:18 AM	4:45 AM	5:20 AM	5:30 AM
8004	5:00 AM	5:50 AM	6:25 AM	7:05 AM	7:15 AM
8006	6:30 AM	7:20 AM	7:55 AM	8:30 AM	8:40 AM
8008	7:45 AM	8:35 AM	9:10 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM
8010	9:15 AM	10:05 AM	10:40 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM
8012	10:45 AM	11:35 AM	12:10 PM	12:50 PM	1:00 PM
8014	12:15 PM	1:05 PM	1:40 PM	2:20 PM	2:30 PM
8016	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	3:25 PM	4:05 PM	4:15 PM
8018	3:15 PM	4:05 PM	4:40 PM	5:25 PM	5:35 PM
8020	4:30 PM	5:20 PM	6:00 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM
8022	5:30 PM	6:20 PM	7:00 PM	7:35 PM	7:45 PM

Great News! Our Daily Schedule Expands on Nov. 13

Due to popular demand—and thanks to the hard work of our parent company, Indian Trails, to recruit and train new professional drivers—we're pleased to announce that our daily schedule will grow from nine roundtrips to 12 as of Nov. 13. Specifically, we'll be adding three Eastbound runs #8000, #8004, and #8024 as shown on [our upcoming new schedule](#), along with three Westbound runs #8001, #8005, and #8023.

The early morning Eastbound runs should go a long way toward connecting passengers with the cheapest flights out of Detroit Metro Airport (DTW), while the later

Westbound runs should satisfy customers 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. Please note that you can now book trips on these new runs effective Nov. 13 through our website at www.MichiganFlyer.com.

Discount Parking to be Eliminated in Ann Arbor

Michigan Flyer-AirRide passengers have long enjoyed discounted parking rates of \$2 per day for up to 14 days in the downtown parking structure at the corner of 4th Avenue and William Street. However, beginning January 8, the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which manages the structure for the city, will no



longer offer the discounted parking program. Instead, parking will return to the public rates posted [HERE](#). If you have questions about this upcoming change, please contact the DDA by phone at (734) 994-6697 or email at dda@a2dda.org.



Susie Gibson

Revealing “Love Connections” Contest Winner #4

Our 2023 essay contest—“Love Connections”—asked contestants to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special 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 three runner-up winners in the E-News of [July](#), [August](#), and [September](#). Now, we’re

pleased to announce that winner #4 is ... **Susie Gibson** of Okemos, Mich.

Next month marks a decade since Susie Gibson lost her 12-year-old and eldest son, Miles, barely a week after he was diagnosed with leukemia. She credits her survival of that tremendous loss to the support of her family, friends, community and belief in God. “I’m a Christian person. It’s the only way I could function afterward.”

Susie describes Miles as a shy child, but larger-than-life in many ways. “He was an old soul. Very funny and wise.” She adds that he loved family gatherings and holidays, basketball, the sports rivalry between Michigan State University and University of Michigan, his brothers Austin and Anthony, pizza and cheeseburgers. He also loved the trips she arranged that began with Michigan Flyer.

“Miles and Austin were 15 months apart in age and best friends,” Susie says. “And since I always loved traveling as a child, I wanted to give them the experience of travel. Both boys loved the Flyer because it meant they were going to the airport.” Among their favorite trips: to visit their brother Anthony in Charlotte, N.C., to Disney World, and to Los Angeles, where they got to see a Clippers game.”

A single mother, Susie appreciates the cost-effectiveness of the Flyer, as well as the comfort, cleanliness, and on-time reliability of our motorcoaches.

Susie, who’s retired from a position with the State of Michigan, says she was happily surprised to learn that her entry was a winner. She’s still figuring out what to buy with the \$100 Amazon gift card: “I’m very economical and there’s a lot to choose from.” Meanwhile, she urges anyone so inclined to support [Be The Match®](#),

operated by the National Marrow Donor Program®.
Here's her story:



Miles

Memories Made

By Susie Gibson

A "Love Connection" is experienced with friends and family members as they drive down US-27, I-96, or US-23 and wave at the Michigan Flyer and say, "Hi, Miles!" Miles was one of my two younger sons. Usually trips to the East Lansing location meant the start of a new adventure. There were flights to Orlando, Fla., Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Los Angeles, Calif., waiting at the airport after the ride on the Michigan Flyer. A ride on the Michigan Flyer meant there was freedom and safety for the family. Mom was close by but Miles and his brother, Austin, could have seats near the middle or the back by themselves. It gave them a

sense of being teenagers, but they were eight, nine, or ten. They had developed a routine for the ride, and it was economical for me, Mommy, as they were able to ride free. Sadly, the trips for Miles ended. In November 2013, Miles passed away at the age of 12, a week after being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). A traumatic shock to family and friends, especially his travel partner and 11-year-old younger brother. As we prepared for the celebration of life, knowing that Miles loved to travel, his godfather called Michigan Flyer to get permission to add a picture of the bus in his obituary program. Permission was granted. Today, various friends and family have taken a ride on the Michigan Flyer to/from the airport. Memories of the excitement and adventure that are in store, yet to unfold. "Hi, Miles!" Love Connection: Live life with enjoyment and adventure.



Travel Alerts

Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center Bypassed on U-M Football Saturdays

If you are planning a Saturday trip with Michigan Flyer-AirRide between Ann Arbor and East Lansing or Detroit Metro Airport soon, please know that on U-M home football game Saturdays some of our runs will bypass the BTC on the way to and from DTW. This will affect some of our runs before, during, and after the Purdue game on Nov. 4, and the Ohio State game on Nov. 25. Note that some Michigan Flyer runs will continue to stop at the BTC on these days. To find out which ones,

just check the "Book a Trip" feature on [our website](#).

Be Sure to Book Early for the Holidays

Better watch out! The holidays are rushing at us like wild turkeys and reindeer. So, if you're planning a trip during this time of year, bear in mind that it's a peak travel period, what with college students migrating and folks visiting family and friends. To guarantee that we have a seat for you, make your Michigan Flyer reservations without delay.

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.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[Boo at the Zoo](#)

Little ghouls and boys can enjoy three weekends of “spooktacular” fun for the whole family including a hay bale maze, costume parade at 1:30 p.m., and candy stations (all free), plus hayrides, an inflatable zone, glow light room, cider and donuts (requiring purchase of activity tickets). Recurring weekly on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. until Oct. 29 at the Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. [Adult tickets \\$8-\\$13](#), children age 3-12, \$5 each, under 3 free.

NOTE: A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus can get you from East Lansing to the zoo in about 45 minutes for \$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. At Grand Ave., use a free transfer card to switch to the #8 bus heading south toward Holt. Get off at S. Pennsylvania Ave. and Fletcher St., then walk about 10 minutes to the zoo. See [CATA's Trip Planner here](#).



[Silver Bells in the City](#)

Downtown Lansing will glow with thousands of lights for this annual celebration, which brings together some 45,000 revelers from across Michigan and beyond to kick-off the holiday season. It includes the Electric Light Parade with more than 70 floats and marching bands, the lighting of the official state Christmas tree, a Community Sing, a firefly drone light show and stunning fireworks over the Capitol dome, plus extended hours for dining and shopping in Silver Bells Village. You can even visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and their live reindeer. It happens from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 17 in and around Washington Square downtown. This is a [FREE family event open to the public](#). Again, CATA's #1 bus can get you there from East Lansing and back.

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

Ann Arbor

[Kelli O'Hara in Concert](#)

Star of stage and screen, Kelli O'Hara has established herself as one of Broadway's greatest leading ladies. She won the 2015 Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, along with nominations for Grammy, Drama League and other awards for her portrayal of Anna Leonowens in “The King and I.” The New York Times hailed her as “Broadway musical’s undisputed queen.” That same year, she made history as the first artist to



cross over from Broadway to opera when she made her Metropolitan Opera debut in “The Merry Widow” starring opposite Renee Fleming.

Her concerts have gained international acclaim from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo. She is a frequent performer on PBS's live telecasts, The Kennedy Center Honors, and alongside the New York Philharmonic and New York Pops. On television, she has appeared on “Blue Bloods,” “All My Children,” “Sex & The City 2,” and “The Good Fight,” among others. She can currently be seen on HBO's acclaimed series, “The Gilded Age.” A few of her Broadway credits include “Kiss Me Kate,” “The Bridges of Madison County,” “South Pacific,” and “Dracula.”

Catch O'Hara's performance at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. [Tickets \\$48.50-\\$99.50.](#)

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

[Full Hunter's Moon Party](#)

Celebrate the rise of the Hunters Moon on Saturday, Oct. 28, with an afternoon of live music and family fun at downtown Brighton's Mill Pond Amphitheater. Various fall games will be held throughout the day, including apple picking for prizes and pumpkin bowling for entertainment. The youthful [Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic](#) will perform in the Amp from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., with a range of music drawn from American folk, bluegrass, jazz, western swing, and Celtic traditions. Then Detroit cover band [Vinyl Rockit](#) takes the stage

from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a setlist designed to keep the dance floor full and energized, playing hits from Prince, Tom Petty, Blondie, Journey, the Cars, Foreigner, INXS, Donna Summer, and more with a dynamic, choreographed light show as a backdrop. In addition, solo street musicians Jason Locke, Kari Holmes, and Johnny Rhoades will be performing on the 400 block of W. Main St.

It's all happening from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Brighton Ampitheater, Millpond Trail, in Brighton.

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

[Jerry Seinfeld Live](#)

Hailed for his uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere, Seinfeld's comedy career took off after his first appearance on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson in 1981. Eight years later, he teamed up with fellow comedian Larry David to create what became the most successful comedy series in the history of television: Seinfeld. The show ran on NBC for nine seasons, winning numerous



Emmy, Golden Globe, and People's Choice awards, and was named the greatest television show of all time in 2009 by TV Guide. America's premier comedian will perform his newest stand-up routine at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. Tickets [\\$74-\\$450+](#).

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/>.



Free Classical Concert for Ukraine by Ukrainians

To help support the people of war-torn Ukraine, consider attending one of three concerts by Ukrainian contralto Vira Slywotsky and pianist/composer Dina Pruzhansky. They perform in Ann Arbor on Oct. 27, Hastings on Oct. 28, and East Lansing on Oct. 29. While there is no admission charge, donations of \$35 per person are encouraged. All proceeds will be used to support the work of [Razom for Ukraine](#) ("razom" means "together" in Ukrainian.) Click the poster to the left for concert times and venues.



Sample Airfares for Thanksgiving Getaways

Every day, we help passengers connect with hundreds of nonstop flights between Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) and top destinations around the country and globe. Michigan Flyer's schedule of frequent, daily roundtrips gives you many opportunities to take advantage of the best airfares available.

This time around, we used [SkyScanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com) to search for the least expensive domestic economy-class fares (which include taxes but not necessarily baggage or

other "extras"). Having chosen a sample trip originating at DTW on Monday, Nov. 20, and returning on Monday,

Nov. 27—and focusing only on nonstop flights—we found these and many other domestic roundtrips that depart from DTW:

Atlanta (ATL) Spirit \$89	Traverse City (TVC) Delta \$318
New York (LGA) Spirit \$105	Nashville, TN (BNA) Delta \$329
Fort Lauderdale (FLL) Spirit \$126	Lexington (LEX) Delta \$338
Orlando (MCO) Spirit \$130	Louisville (SDF) Delta \$358
New Orleans (MSY) Spirit \$133	Myrtle Beach (MYR) Delta \$368
Minneapolis (MSP) Spirit \$150	San Antonio (SAT) Delta \$388
Las Vegas (LAS) Spirit \$153	Indianapolis (IND) Delta \$398
Tampa (TPA) Spirit \$163	Richmond, VA (RIC) Delta \$398
Escanaba (ESC) Delta \$175	Austin (AUS) Delta \$408
Denver (DEN) Frontier \$175	Omaha (OMA) Delta \$418
Los Angeles (LAX) Spirit \$196	Miami (MIA) American \$423
Iron Mountain, MI (IMT) Delta/SkyWest \$199	Kansas City, MO (MCI) Delta \$448
Alpena, MI (APN) Delta \$208	Seattle (SEA) Delta \$458
Chicago (ORD) United or American \$208	Providence (PVD) Delta \$473
Philadelphia (PHL) American \$208	Hartford, CT (BDL) Delta \$478
Phoenix (PHX) Frontier \$223	Syracuse, NY (SYR) Delta \$488
Washington, DC (IAD) United \$224	San Diego (SAN) Delta \$498
Dallas (DFW) Spirit \$258	Durham, NC (RDU) Delta \$548
Houston (IAH) Spirit \$259	Portland, ME (PWM) Delta \$638
Boston (BOS) JetBlue \$277	Portland, OR (PDX) Delta \$678
San Francisco (SFO) Frontier \$283	West Palm Beach (PBI) Delta \$683
Lansing, MI (LAN) Delta/SkyWest \$298	Honolulu (HNL) Delta \$1,371



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 113-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

We encourage anyone, including those with no commercial driving experience, to apply. 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 and apply here.](#)



L-R Tobias Altvater, THG music director;
Justin Valla, OHS orchestra director;
Megan Anderson, Chippewa Middle School
orchestra director

Helping Students Make International Music

Earlier this week, Michigan Flyer took three motorcoaches to Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) to pick up 123 orchestra, band, and choir students who'd flown to the U.S. from Ludwigshafen, Germany. All were from Theodor-Heuss Gymnasium High School, and were traveling to Okemos, Mich., as part of a foreign exchange program that dates back 35 years.

Originally the brainchild of now-retired orchestra teacher Marilyn Kesler of Okemos High School (OHS) in collaboration with Maya Bard, her counterpart in Germany, the program has been bringing Okemos and

German students together every other year or so since the 1990s. That tradition has been carried on by newer music teachers at both schools.

Justin Valla, who's in his sixth year as the director of the OHS orchestra, applauds the exchange program: "There are so many benefits for all the students involved. The chance to make international friends of around the same age, and to learn about each other's cultures—what's different and what's similar." The costs of travel are mostly defrayed by fundraisers.



OHS and German music students

Whether the music students are performing in Michigan or Germany, the two high schools rely on local families to host them during their week-long visits, says Valla: "We encourage host families to introduce these young visitors to daily life—what they themselves like to do, where they like to go, what they like to eat. It's a chance for the students to experience a different culture."

Besides practicing each day for their closing concert, the German students also attended classes at OHS, took field trips to Uncle John's Cider Mill, Potter Park Zoo, and the Michigan State Capitol. The OHS orchestra is scheduled to travel to Germany in 2026.

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!



Fun Facts About Halloween

1. Our spooky holiday always occurs on October 31, which falls on a Tuesday this year. According to History.com, it began more than 2,000 years ago—before Christianity—with a festival of the Celts, who lived in what are now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France. Their celebration marked the start of the cold, dark winter. Believing that ghosts of the dead returned to earth at this time to make trouble and ruin crops, they tried to frighten the spirits away by donning animal heads and skins, carving ghoulish jack-o-lanterns, and starting bonfires.
2. In the 700s, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints Day in hopes of replacing the pagan Celtic festival. The night before that was known as All Hallows Eve, and from this sprang the name “Halloween.”
3. Trick-or-treating has roots in the early All Souls’ Day parades of England, where poor people begged for food and families gave them “soul cakes” in return for promises to pray for bygone relatives.
4. In the mid-1800s, millions of immigrants poured into America, many fleeing the Irish Potato Famine. That helped to spread the celebration of Halloween nationwide, though the emphasis was on neighborhood costume parties and seasonal foods, not ghosts, goblins, and witches.
5. Harry Houdini—the world-famous magician and illusionist—died on Halloween in 1926. A week earlier, his appendix had burst during a performance in Detroit, Mich. Although he was immediately rushed to the hospital, he succumbed to peritonitis.

Why Drive?

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



www.michiganflyer.com



follow us on Facebook and Twitter