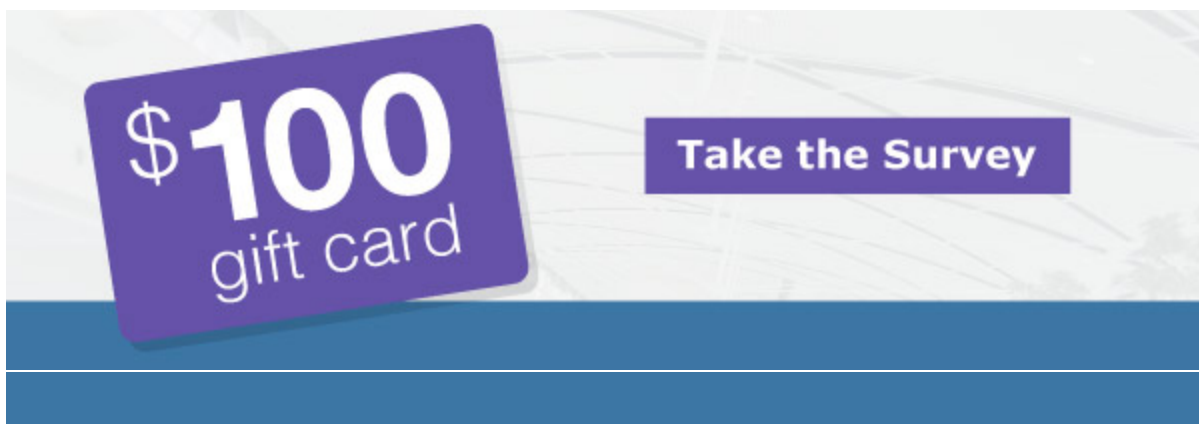




Take a Quick Survey, Win a \$100 Gift Card!

At Michigan Flyer, we're constantly working to improve customer service, and your participation in our new Passenger Survey will help us to do just that. There are only 15 questions, mostly brief and multiple choice. The survey should take only 7-8 minutes to complete. You can [find the survey here](#).

After that, you'll be automatically entered into a random drawing for one of five \$100 Amazon gift cards! Thanks for taking time to help us keep delivering the finest motor coach experience possible—and good luck!



Revealing "Great Connections" Contest Winner #4



Our 2024 essay contest asked folks to tell us how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special person, place or adventure. It features a \$500 gift card Top Prize and five \$100 gift card runner-up prizes. Michigan Flyer staff and creative consultants select the winners based on which essays best fit the contest theme. You can read about our first three runner-up winners [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (Note that each winner is notified in the month their entry is to be published.)

This month, we're happy to announce that our fourth runner-up winner is Brian Dunn of Ann Arbor, Mich. A native of Detroit, Brian graduated from the University of Michigan in 1986. Several years ago, Brian reconnected with a friend named Charlie from his college days.

"He told me about this annual reunion in Las Vegas with some of the other guys from our old apartment and hinted I should come," Brian recalls. "But not long afterward, Charlie passed away suddenly. One old roommate who also lives in Michigan drove us to Charlie's funeral. He invited me to the next reunion, where we could all have a drink in his memory."

A retired research analyst for the Michigan State Legislature, Brian is also a freelance writer. After reading about our essay contest in the E-News, he decided to enter. "I was pleasantly surprised to find out I won," he said, adding that he's not yet sure what he'll buy with his \$100 gift card. "I'll be checking my Amazon wish list!"

Since his first trip in 2018 to meet up with his pals, Brian has counted on Michigan Flyer to take him to Detroit Metropolitan Airport and back again. "I see the Flyer all the time," he says. "They drive right by my house. I love it because it's clean, reliable, and the drivers are always friendly. Plus, I can catch up on some sleep!"

Flying Back to the Past

By Brian Dunn

"Michigan Flyer drives me to the 1980s. Since 2018, I've ridden the motorcoach to Detroit Metro Airport to reconnect with old college roommates on the Las Vegas strip! 'Apartment 11' on the University of Michigan campus was shorthand for friendships, fun, and even a bit of studying. For two years, a number of us lived there with that spirit in our two-story home with a spiral staircase. After graduation, we went on to build our lives, and eventually lost touch.



Brian Dunn and friends
in Las Vegas

"Decades later, by chance, two of us ran across each other online. In 2018, three of us decided to meet in Las Vegas. We'd built careers in diverse fields—an auto industry engineer, a cardiologist, and a research analyst for the state legislature—and raised our children. We'd see how our Maize and Blue bonds held up. I relied on Michigan Flyer to get me to the airport from Ann Arbor. In Vegas we saw over-the-top shows, enjoyed fine dining at The Palm and Gordon Ramsay's—and White Castle, too—and experienced the cacophony of the casino floors with their sounds and neon lights making time itself hazy. When we parted, we flew back to our homes. I took my final leg on that comfortable motorcoach, slumbering from lack of sleep until safely pulling into downtown Ann Arbor.

"Three of us have returned to The Strip every year since. One friend's wife asked what it was like after all these years. He remarked it was like we'd seen each other the day before, and one had just walked into the apartment to say, 'Let's go to the video arcade.' I was able to reconnect with some of the characters of Apartment 11 and revive that fun and friendship. Without the studying part. Thanks, Michigan Flyer!"



Travel Alerts

Be Sure to Book Early for the Holidays

If you're planning a trip around Thanksgiving or Christmas, bear in mind that these are peak travel periods, with hordes of college students migrating home and back, and folks everywhere traveling to visit family and friends.

To guarantee that we have a seat for you, make your Michigan Flyer reservations without delay. Ditto for buying your airline tickets. As [USA Today points out](#), America's airports saw record crowds during Thanksgiving week last year, resulting in a stressful experience for many.

It also notes that, according to NerdWallet, the least chaotic days to fly anywhere for Thanksgiving may be Saturday, Nov. 23; Monday, Nov. 25; and the holiday itself, Nov. 28. For the return flight, the least busy days should be Black Friday, Nov. 29; Tuesday, Dec. 3; and Wednesday, Dec. 4

Michigan Flyer Turkey Day Schedule Changes

Due in part to the 5K and 1K races of the [Ann Arbor Turkey Trot](#) on Thursday, Nov. 28, Michigan Flyer 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](#).

Spirit Airlines to Suspend 30+ Routes



Ultra-low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines—reportedly facing tough financial straits—will [suspend or eliminate more than 30 routes](#) over the next few months, affecting travelers nationwide.

In fact, according to SimpleFlying.com, Spirit has already halted service between Detroit Metro Airport and Charleston International Airport in South Carolina, with no future flights planned between DTW and CHS.

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

If you're planning a Saturday trip with us between Ann Arbor and East Lansing or Detroit Metro Airport this fall, please know that on U-M home football game days **some** of our runs will bypass the BTC on the way to and from the airport. This will affect certain runs before, during, and after the following games:

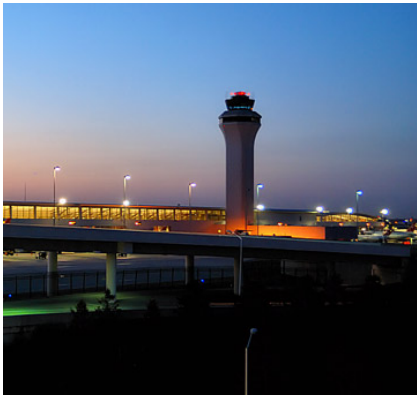
Oct. 26, Michigan State, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 2, Oregon, TBA

Nov. 23, Northwestern, TBA

Please note, however, that **other** 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](#).

USA Today Names DTW One of America's 10Best Large Airports

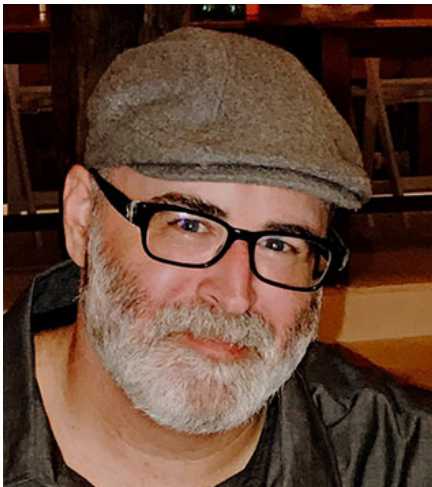


The results are in for USA TODAY's 2024 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, and Detroit Metro Airport is ranked one of the nation's 10 best large airports, as well as one of the 10 best for both shopping and dining. As E-News readers may recall, Michigan Flyer's parent company—[Indian Trails](#)—was named one of America's 10Best bus companies by USA Today readers last July. So our passengers can take some satisfaction in knowing that they're riding and flying with the best.

Call the Right Number for Info about Traveling with Indian Trails

The correct phone number to use is (989) 725-5105. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Indian Trails will no longer have a toll-free 800 phone number.

Meet New Safety Director Raymond Ruddy



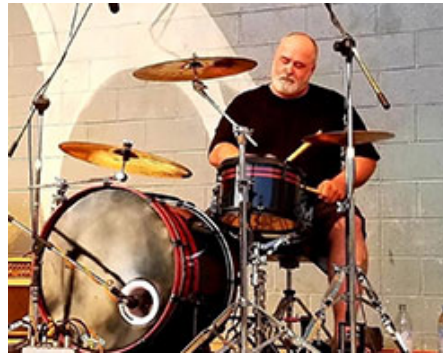
When you board one of our motorcoaches, you can be confident that your driver is thoroughly trained in how to safely carry passengers to their destination.

That's because Raymond "Ray" Ruddy went through the same intensive, weeks-long training course required of all new drivers when he joined Indian Trails in 2018. Now, he's in charge of that course as Safety Director, after being promoted from professional driver to Operations Supervisor along the way.

The Safety Director role had previously been held by Bob Davis, who passed away in June at age 41 after a long battle with cancer. "I know I have big shoes to fill," says Ray. "It's a tough job and Bob was amazing in it. I'm going to do the very best I can. But I feel I'm up to the challenge."

Ray's Route to Indian Trails

Born in Owosso, Ray grew up in Montrose/New Lothrop, then moved to Pensacola, Fla., as a young adult and found work as a musician. He plays the piano, saxophone and drums. When he wasn't playing with bands, Ray served as a part-time music teacher and also worked for Clear Channel Radio as promotions director.



He returned to Michigan in 2015 to spend time with his aging parents and 10 siblings. It was his late sister, Colleen, who suggested he check out a driver's position at Indian Trails.

"She was right," says Ray, who now lives in Fenton, Mich. "I'm ecstatic that I took her advice. It feels like I found my home with Indian Trails. I've never held a job that I enjoyed more than this one."

The Role of Safety Director

The training program that Ray now oversees covers everything from the ins-and-outs of motorcoach maneuvering, safe driving, and navigating hazardous weather conditions, to customer service, motor carrier regulations, driver standards, and more.

"I teach new drivers that they're the captains of their ship when they're in their motorcoach," says Ray. "I impress on them, too, that Indian Trails was established more than a century ago, and it's amazing to work here, especially with the structures, rules and a great support system, developed over time. We always have the newest fleet of motorcoaches and highly trained drivers. I'm always proud to tell people where I work."

After learning how to conduct a pre-trip motorcoach safety inspection, new drivers spend time with Indian Trails' mechanics to get a deeper understanding of the items covered, as well as help them to communicate any mechanical issues they may encounter on the road.

When trainees complete the education program run by Ray, they're well-prepared for the Commercial Driver's License exam and a professional driving career that offers starting wages of \$22.28 an hour; paid time off; medical, dental, vision and life insurance; a 401(k) retirement program, and more. [Click here for additional details or to apply.](#)

Top Coming Events–We Can Get You There!



East Lansing **Barbie – You Can Be Anything**

From career dolls to real-world role models, Barbie has been inspiring girls since 1959 and she isn't done yet! This exciting exhibit—for kids of all ages—showcases the iconic Barbie doll and encourages the kind of imaginative play that teaches that no matter our gender, ethnicity, or background, we can all make the world a better place by doing work that excites us, challenges us, and brings us fulfillment. Visitors can explore 15 different careers including archaeologist, doctor, pilot, designer, and more!

"Barbie - You Can Be Anything"—along with several other exciting, hands-on exhibits—is at Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr., in downtown Lansing until January 19. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults and children 2 years or older; \$10.50 for seniors, military members and their families.

NOTE: Capital Area Transportation Authority's #1 bus can get you from East Lansing to downtown Lansing and back. It boards passengers near the corner of westbound Grand River Ave. and M.A.C. (a short walk from our location at the East Lansing Marriott). See [CATA's Trip Planner here](#).

Silver Bells in the City

Downtown Lansing will glow with thousands of lights for this 40th 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 Friday, Nov. 22, in and around Washington Square downtown. This is a [FREE family event open to the public](#).

NOTE: Again, CATA's #1 bus can get you from East Lansing to downtown Lansing and back. See details above.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing calendar: lansing.org/events.

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: visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/.

Ann Arbor Of Thee I Sing

Just in time for the 2024 election, don't miss George and Ira Gershwin's satirical comedy about a presidential election, the first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.



The original Broadway production opened at the Music Box Theatre in New York City in December 1931. Contemporary theater critic Charles Isherwood says, "The laughter that greets the show today is tinged with surprise at how eerily some of its jokes seem to take precise aim, from decades back, at current affairs."

In this concert-style production, the Gershwin brothers' music will be performed by faculty from U-M's Musical Theater Program and a Broadway-scale orchestra. This special event is one-time-only: 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$8-\\$50](#).



An Evening with Bernadette Peters

Bernadette Peters—actress, singer and children’s book author—is one of the most critically acclaimed Broadway performers, having won two Tony Awards, three Drama Desk Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, plus three Emmy Award nominations. She is particularly noted for her roles on the Broadway stage, including in the musicals “Sunday in the Park with George,” “Song and Dance,” “Into the Woods,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” and “Gypsy.”

Peters has also been praised for her work on “The Muppet Show” and “The Carol Burnett Show,” and for her roles in films like “Silent Movie,” “The Jerk,” “Pennies from Heaven,” and “Annie.” In addition, she has recorded six solo albums. See her perform live and in person at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. [Tickets \\$57 - \\$252.](#)

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

Detroit Justin Timberlake - The Forget Tomorrow World Tour

Renowned musician, songwriter, and actor Justin Timberlake will perform at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., in Detroit on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.



During his first tour in five years, fans can expect to hear songs from his new album “Everything I Thought It Was,” including the single “Selfish,” as well as hits like “Can’t Stop the Feeling!” During his stellar career, he’s sold over 54 million albums, won ten

Grammy Awards, and four Emmy Awards for his memorable appearances on "Saturday Night Live." [Tickets \\$83-\\$180+](#).

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 this event. Little Caesars Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.



Steve Martin and Martin Short – The Dukes of Funnytown!

In this live show, two of America's funniest comedy masters take the audience on a joyous, self-deprecating romp. The jokes come at a rapid-fire pace with big punch lines as they mock Hollywood and the fickle nature of celebrity. But the comedy truly soars when they lovingly (and relentlessly) roast each other.

Martin and Short's chemistry on stage reflects a friendship forged over three decades, since they met on the set of the 1986 film "Three Amigos." Besides starring in the TV series "Only Murders in the Building," they've been touring together since their first live show in 2015, entitled "A Very Stupid Conversation." Catch them at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$329-\\$410](#).

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. The Fox Theater is about a five-minute walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave. (in Grand Circus Park), Detroit.

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

Where It's Dangerous to Travel Abroad



If you're thinking about traveling to a foreign country, it's wise to first check the U.S. State Dept.'s [Travel Advisories](#). They rate the safety risk of visiting each country by levels ranging from "1. Exercise Normal Precautions" to "4. Do Not Travel."

Currently, the 20 countries below are listed as Level 4. Three more—[China](#), [Mexico](#), as well as [Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#)—are listed as "Other," meaning some areas within them are Level 3 "Reconsider Travel," or Level 4.

For example, travelers are cautioned to avoid Mainland China due to the "arbitrary enforcement of local laws, including ... the risk of wrongful detentions." Similarly, while Mexico is a popular destination for Americans, the State Dept. notes that "violent crime—such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery—is widespread and common" in many areas.

Beyond learning about potential trouble spots, it's wise to join the State Dept.'s [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). STEP participants get real-time updates about health, weather, safety, and security in the country where they're traveling. Moreover, this helps the embassy or consulate to contact you if there's an emergency like a natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency.

Here are the countries with Level 4 advisories, along with the date when each advisory was last updated. Click on the name of a country to see the State Dept.'s concerns about it.

[Lebanon](#) Sept. 28, 2024

[Venezuela](#) Sept. 24, 2024

[Haiti](#) Sept. 18, 2024

[Iran](#) Aug. 14, 2024

[Libya](#) Aug. 1, 2024

[Afghanistan](#) July 29, 2024

[Somalia](#) July 23, 2024

[Yemen](#) July 10, 2024

[Syria](#) July 10, 2024

[Russia](#) June 27, 2024

[Burma \(Myanmar\)](#) June 6, 2024

[Iraq](#) April 24, 2024

[South Sudan](#) July 31, 2023

[Mali](#) July 31, 2023

[Central African Republic](#) July 31, 2023

[Burkina Faso](#) July 31, 2023

[Belarus](#) July 26, 2023

[North Korea](#) July 24, 2023

[Ukraine](#) May 22, 2023

[Sudan](#) April 22, 2023



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

If a Hurricane or Global Tech Outage Disrupted Your Flight, Ask for a Refund



Last July, the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike—which provides software to thousands of companies worldwide—[applied a faulty update](#) to computers running Microsoft Windows. That instantly caused a [historic global disruption](#) that knocked airlines, hospitals, businesses, governments, and countless other organizations offline. Thousands of flights were delayed or cancelled in the U.S. and around the world.

Then came Hurricane Helene in late September, followed by Hurricane Milton this month, both causing flight disruptions for thousands of travelers.

If your flight was affected by such an event, or any other—and if your airline has not yet refunded the cost of your ticket—then you should request it ASAP. Under a [rule implemented by the U.S. Department of Transportation](#), you qualify for a refund if (among other things) your domestic flight was delayed by three hours or more, or your international flight was delayed by six hours or more. That's true even if the ticket was sold as non-refundable. Depending on the airline, you might also be entitled to reimbursement for expenses such as meals and lodging. [See the DOT's "dashboard"](#) for info on what each airline will cover in the event of a delay or cancellation.

The DOT rule requires that refunds be made within seven business days for credit card payments and within 20 calendar days for other forms of payments, such as travel credits, airline miles or gift cards. Note that if you accept a credit or voucher, you'll lose the right to an automatic refund. Also, refunds must also be for the full amount of the

ticket purchase price—including taxes and fees—but minus the value of any transportation already received. [See complete details here.](#)

Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

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

facebook

tripadvisor®

yelp

Customer Comment

"I identify as a Michigander because I grew up there, but I currently live in California and travel 'home' two to three times a year. When I found out about Michigan Flyer, I was thrilled that my family from the Ann Arbor area didn't have to travel to the airport to pick me up. All of the drivers I've had the pleasure to ride with for the past four years have been fantastic, but I would like to especially call out Crystal, who was my amazing and friendly driver on 9/13/24. I also want to give recognition to Jason, who is the Michigan Flyer customer service rep. working at the Evans and McNamara terminals. He is such an asset to the company, as well as Crystal. I felt so taken care of with both of them. Thank you!"

—Marti C., Davis, Calif.



Fun Facts About Halloween



- Our spooky holiday always occurs on October 31, which is a Thursday this year. According to [History.com](https://www.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.
- In the 700s, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints Day in hopes of replacing the pagan Celtic festival. The night before was known as All Hallows Eve, and from this sprang the name “Halloween.”
- Trick-or-treating has roots in the early All Souls’ Day parades of England, when poor people begged for food and families gave them “soul cakes” in return for promises to pray for bygone relatives.
- 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.

Why Drive?

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



333 Albert Street - Suite 214 | East Lansing, MI 48823

www.michiganflyer.com

