



## ITHACA AND HORSEHEADS, NY AREA INFORMATION

[Ithaca](#) is a city on Cayuga Lake, in New York’s Finger Lakes region. It’s home to Cornell University, an Ivy League University, and Ithaca College. The greater Ithaca area has a strong foundation in education and is ripe with outdoor recreation opportunities, along with some of the best culinary and performing arts experiences in the Finger Lakes region.

[Village of Horseheads](#), gateway to the Finger Lakes and Upstate New York, offers a variety of shops, restaurants, hotels and recreational activities for residents and visitors. Horseheads is approximately 25 miles south of Ithaca.

### Transportation

As a growing urban area, Ithaca is facing increases in traffic on the city road and state highways. Outlying areas have limited bus service, and many people consider a car essential. However, many consider Ithaca a walkable and bikeable community, and most commuters in the Ithaca area walk to work.

#### By Car

- [511NY](#) Provides up to the minute traffic and transit information for New York state.

#### By Bike

- Find over 1046 [bike trails](#) in Ithaca.
- Find over 285 [bike trails](#) in Horseheads

#### By Bus

- Ithaca is the center of an extensive bus public transportation network, TCAT, Inc ([Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit](#), Inc.)
- In 2017, [OurBus](#) launched a bus route between Ithaca and Manhattan, offering daily departures.
- [Greyhound Bus](#) offers services to the area.



#### By Air

Ithaca is served by Ithaca [Tompkins Regional Airport](#) (ITH)

## Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

### Public, Private, and Preschools

The [Ithaca City School District](#), which encompasses Ithaca and the surrounding area, enrolls about 5,500 K-12 students in eight elementary schools, two middle schools, [Ithaca High School](#), and [the Lehman Alternative Community School](#). Several private elementary and secondary schools are located in the Ithaca area, including [Cascadilla School](#), [New Roots Charter School](#), [Elizabeth Ann Clune Montessori School](#) and the [Ithaca Waldorf School](#).

[Horseheads Central School District](#) is in the Southern Tier of New York, with approximately 4200 students. [Horseheads Christian School](#) and [St. Mary Our Mother](#) are two of the area's private schools.

A directory of preschools in the area can be viewed [here](#).

### Additional Resources

- [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)
- [www.eschoolprofile.com](http://www.eschoolprofile.com)
- [www.schooltree.org](http://www.schooltree.org)

### Colleges/Universities

- [Cornell University](#)
- [Ithaca College](#)



## Recreation

### Ithaca Museums and Culture

- [Johnson Museum of Art](#) houses one of the finest collections of art in upstate New York.
- [Museum of the Earth](#) presents a mix of natural history displays, interactive science features, and art exhibitions.
- The Center for the Arts at Ithaca, Inc., operates the "[Hangar Theatre](#)". Opened in 1975 in a renovated municipal airport hangar, the Hangar hosts a summer season of performances.
- [Cinemapolis](#) for the latest in film and special events



*Museum of the Earth*

### Horseheads Museums and Culture

- [Horseheads Historical Society](#)
- [Horseheads Village History](#)
- [Teal Park](#) holds a Summertime Concert Series

### The Great Outdoors in the area

Thousands of years ago, mile high glaciers melted away to reveal a landscape of crystal lakes, jagged gorges, and thundering waterfalls. Today the view is green with vineyards and farms, and lush with gentle hills and wild forest.

- [Buttermilk Falls State Park in Ithaca](#) takes its name from the foaming cascade formed by Buttermilk Creek as it flows down the steep valley side toward Cayuga Lake.
- The sprawling [Cornell Botanic Gardens](#) , an area of great natural beauty and serenity, is part of one of America's most renowned university campuses.
- [Finger Lakes Trail](#) offers over 900 miles of trails to explore.
- [Ithaca Falls](#) is part of a series of waterfalls along the hanging valley.
- [Taughannock Falls State Park](#) plunges 215 feet past rocky cliffs.



*Taughannock Falls State Park*

### Area Resources for Recreation

- [Things to do with kids](#)
- [Ithaca family fun](#)
- [Visit Ithaca](#)
- [Ithaca Events Calendar](#)
- [Horseheads Parks and Recreation](#)

## Area Shopping

- [Ithaca Farmers Market](#) offers five weekly markets during the growing season, and an indoor winter market.
- Ithaca's traditional downtown shopping area is [the Ithaca Commons pedestrian mall](#)
- [Collegetown](#), Ithaca's second city, is located next to the Cornell campus.
- [Dewitt Mall](#) is a wonderful example of tastefully re-purposed school into a multi-use building offering a variety of merchants and dining
- [The Shops at Ithaca Mall](#)
- [Greenstar Natural Foods Market](#)
- [Aldi Grocery Store](#)
- [Wegmans Grocery Store](#)
- [Arnot Mall](#) near Horseheads



*Ithaca Commons*

## Registration

### Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you have an out-of-state or out-of-country license, you may use it for as long as you maintain your residency in the state where it was issued. If you are moving permanently to New York, you may use your out-of-state license for only your 30 days here. To change to a New York license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and multiple utility or phone bills verifying that you are a New York resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [New York Department of Motor Vehicles](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.